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# Montana

1993-94 Snowmobiling Guide





Redtail Hawk Alan & Sandy Carey

# Celebrate Winter . . .

The Northern Rockies are more than a range of pretty mountain faces. Especially in winter. Groomed trails, powder bowls, views that stretch for hundreds of miles, winter wildlife, clean air and little-traveled backcountry are the hallmarks of these Rocky Mountain powder-perfect playgrounds. Montana invites you to refresh your spirit and renew your outlook—we have so much to share.

Over 3,000 miles of snowmobile trails are marked and groomed annually, making Montana the top snowmobile destination in the country! We have trails that will take you to the geysers and hot pots of Yellowstone National Park. Trails that will open up views of Montana's most magnificent backcountry. Easygoing trails that will take you on scenic loop tours of backcountry lakes, hot springs and ghost towns. And challenging trails that will test your skills and endurance at skytop elevations.



Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park Jeff Henry

Since 1977, when Montana set aside a portion of its gasoline tax for development of snowmobile facilities, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of State Lands, the Montana Snowmobile Association and local snowmobile clubs have worked together to create this vast trail network, most of it on national forest lands.

National forests comprise 17 million acres—nearly one-fifth of Montana's land area, primarily in the western third of the state. More than three million acres have been preserved as wilderness. These designated wilderness areas are closed to motorized travel, but many more millions of acres of national forest lands remain open to snowmobilers.

Because of its vast public lands, Montana has some of the longest connecting trails in the nation, making it possible to ride all day without crossing a highway or

seeing a car. Visitors should contact local forest service offices to find out what is open for snowmobile use.

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Scenic Wayne Mumford  
Snowmobiler Courtesy Yamaha  
Montana State Library



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# Montana Style!

Towns along the trails make fun stops for gas, food and lodging. Active, well-organized clubs welcome visitors, provide guide service and keep the focus on fun with activities that range from hill climbs and fun runs to steak fries and pancake breakfasts.

Plan to spend some time in one of Montana's cities or towns before or after you hit the trail, too. You'll enjoy the museums and galleries, shopping and restaurants, winter carnivals, festivals and world-class events like Butte's national and international speed skating competition, West Yellowstone's fall training camp for the U.S. Nordic and Biathlon teams and the Race to the Sky 500-Mile Sled Dog Race. Winter is a peak season in Montana, and we celebrate it every chance we get. We hope you will join us just for the fun of it.

Montana's downhill and cross-country ski resorts offer a day off the trail and so much more-world-class skiing, guided ski tours into Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, wildlife photography tours, sleigh rides, ice skating, horseback riding, restaurants that range from ranch-style to gourmet, friendly casinos and bars and natural hot springs pools for relaxation and contemplation at the end of the day.



Early morning catch Wayne Mumford



End of the day Mitch Kezar (courtesy Yamaha)

## Please note:

Travel Montana is not a regulatory agency, and therefore has no authority to inspect the businesses in this directory. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these listings, but changes sometimes occur after publication.

The maps in this publication are for general information only. Please contact the organizations listed in "Maps & Information" at the end of each area description for detailed information about trails.

# Getting to Montana

Getting to and through Big Sky country is half the fun of a Montana vacation. The landscape is unspoiled, the views unforgettable. If you are driving from the east, the panoramic vistas are as big as the sky. If you come from the west, range after range of Rocky Mountains will keep your attention skyward.

In a state as big as Montana, highway maintenance is of prime importance. In winter, highways are plowed and sanded regularly. Motorists can get weather information and up-to-the-minute road reports on all radio stations every morning, with updates broadcast throughout the day. Road reports are available by calling 800-332-6171 in Montana or 406-444-6339 outside Montana.

Major commercial airlines serve Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula, with good commuter connections to Glasgow, Glendive, Havre, Lewistown, Miles City, Sidney and Wolf Point.

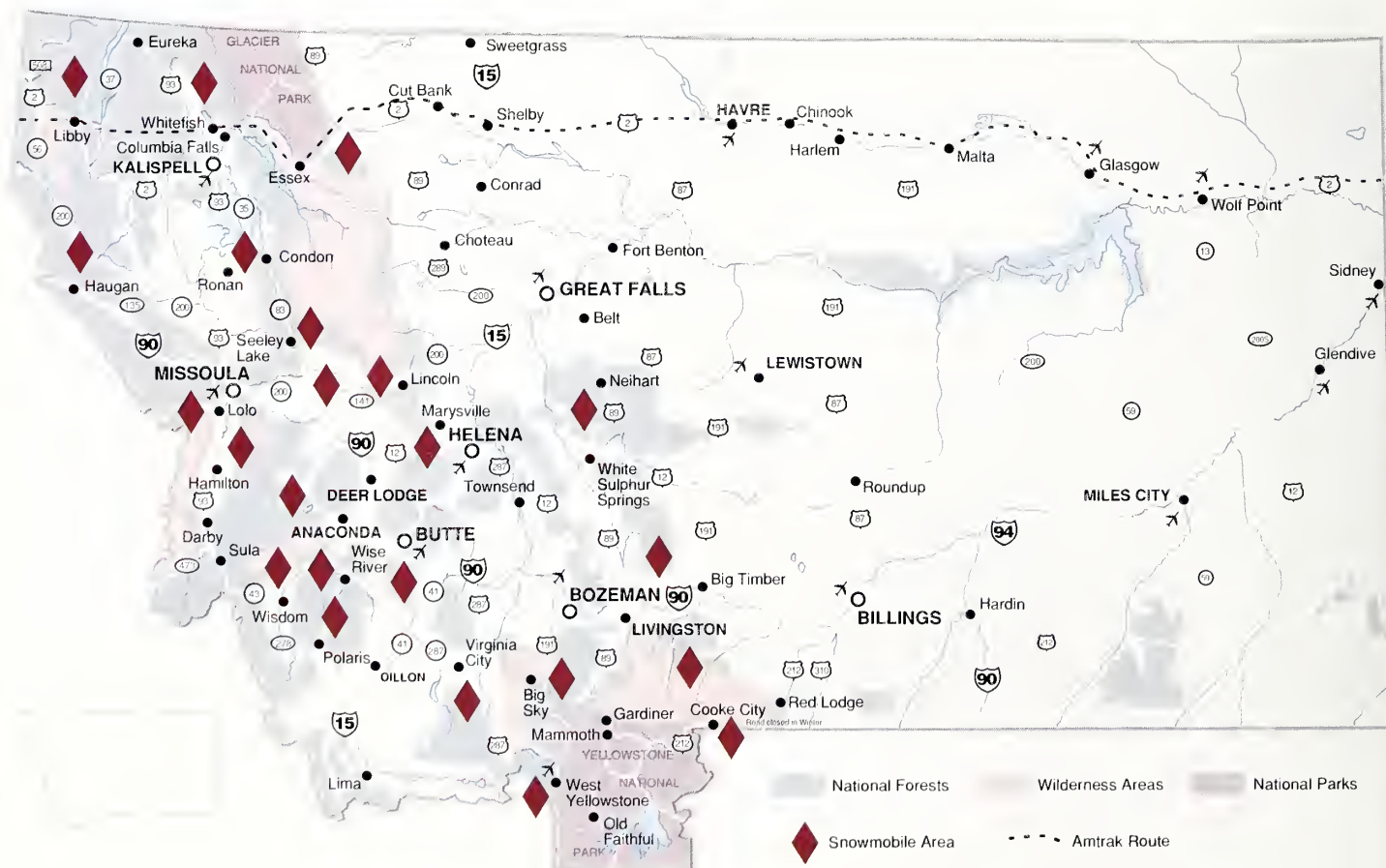
**For road conditions within a 100-mile radius of each of the following cities, call:**

**Billings.....406 252-2806**  
**Bozeman.....406 586-1313**  
**Butte.....406 494-3666**  
**Glendive.....406 365-2314**  
**Great Falls.. 406 453-1605**  
**Havre..... 406 265-1416**  
**Helena..... 406 444-6354**  
**Kalispell..... 406 755-4949**  
**Lewistown... 406 538-7445**  
**Miles City... 406 232-2099**  
**Missoula..... 406 728-8553**  
**Wolf Point... 406 653-1692**

Amtrak parallels US Highway 2 across northern Montana, providing daily east-west service to Libby, Whitefish, West Glacier, East Glacier, Essex and points east. For reservations and information, dial 800-872-7245.

Montana is a big state—the nation's fourth largest—with widely varied landscapes and physical features. To help familiarize visitors with Montana's many vacation opportunities, the state is divided into six vacation "countries," which are detailed on the following pages. Most of Montana's 3,000-plus miles of groomed snowmobile trails, downhill and cross-country ski resorts and 17 million acres of national forest are located in the mountains of western Montana—the area covered by Glacier, Gold West and Yellowstone countries. But don't overlook the winter opportunities and vacation attractions in Russell, Missouri River and Custer countries. One of Montana's most popular winter sports areas (Kings Hill), two of its ice fishing hot spots (Fort Peck Lake and Nelson Reservoir) and the site of the nation's most famous Indian battle (Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument), are located in central and eastern Montana. Use the listings and descriptions that follow to help set your tracks through Montana this winter.

For additional travel information, call toll-free 800-541-1447. In Montana, call 406-444-2654.





# Wildlife Watching



Pine grosbeak  
*Lee Kaiser*

## The Secret is Knowing Where to Look

Montana's abundant opportunities for wildlife viewing are a big part of why visitors choose Montana as a vacation destination. The Watchable Wildlife program is a cooperative effort of several nonprofit, state and federal agencies to help visitors interested in wildlife locate and learn about animals of North America.

As you enjoy winter sports in Montana, take time to stop and look for wildlife at designated wildlife viewing sites. These are the spots determined by the experts to be the places you'll be most likely to see one or more of Montana's over 1,000 species. And remember, give them plenty of space—they have to conserve precious energy to survive the winter.



A site-specific guide to Montana's designated Watchable Wildlife viewing areas is available for \$5.95 plus postage by calling 800-582-2665.



Wintering elk *Alan & Sandy Carey*

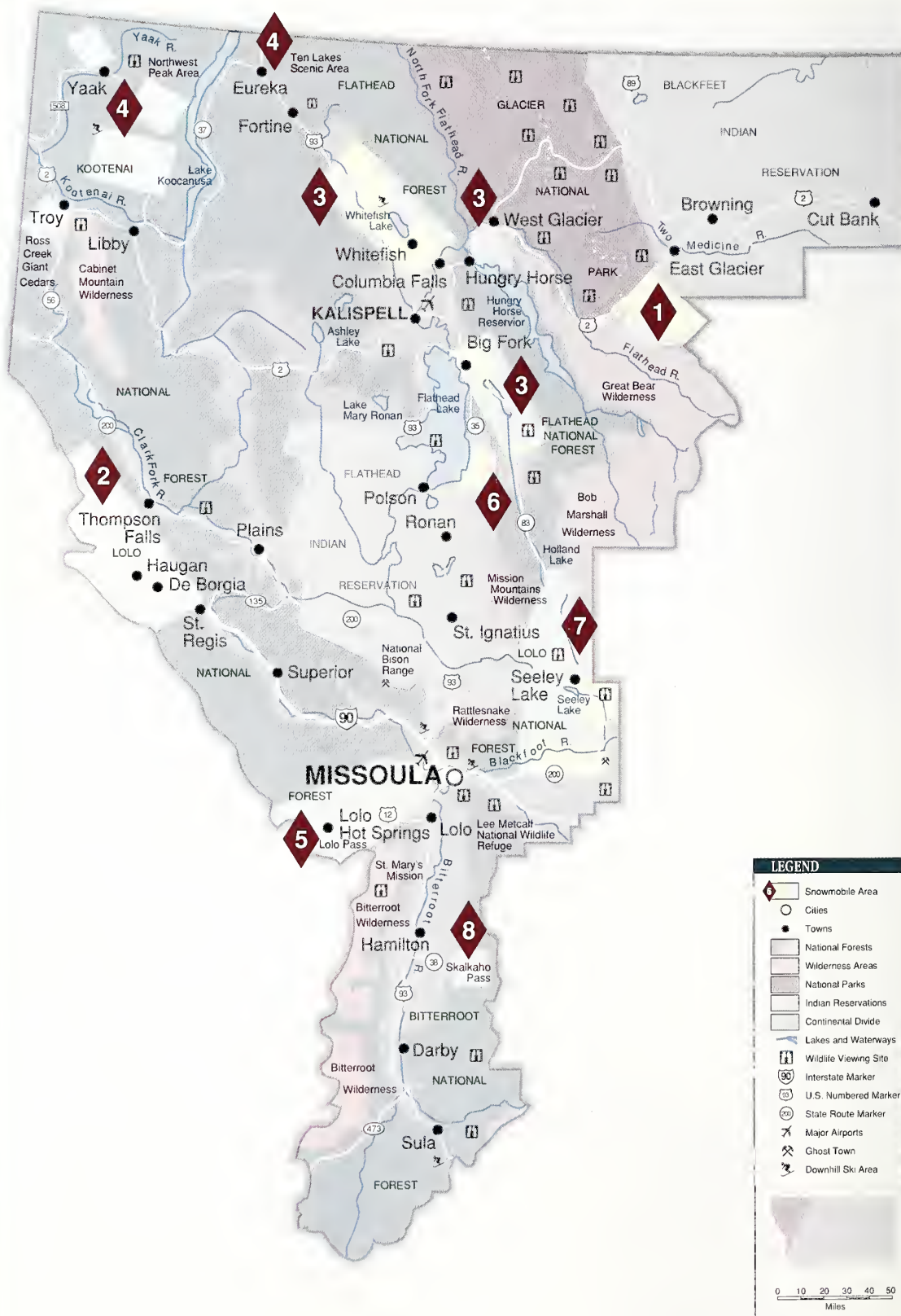




Bighorn sheep Phil Farnes

Glacier Country is mountain country—mountains that crown the continent and provide habitat for grizzly and elk, bald eagles and bighorn sheep. High in the sky, eastbound moisture from the Pacific turns into swirls and layers of weightless white powder. Montana's northwest corner is the home of Glacier National Park, large and lovely Flathead Lake, the wild and scenic Flathead River, the National Bison Range, the Blackfeet and Flathead Indian reservations and scenic Bitterroot Valley. Here, too, are millions of acres of national forest, hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails, eight national wilderness areas and dozens of fish-filled lakes that freeze over for ice fishing in winter. With its network of snowmobile trails, destination downhill and cross-country ski resorts and nonstop winter sporting events, Glacier Country is a popular destination for winter recreationists. Sophisticated cities and lakeside communities offer the perfect complement to your snowmobiling vacation. Fine restaurants, theaters, shops and malls make Glacier Country a great place to be. The University of Montana campus in Missoula, with a tradition of love for history and the arts, should be a planned visit for those interested in cultural pursuits.

# Glacier Country





## 1 CUT BANK

Those who like their winters wild can test their mettle at northwest Montana's Marias Pass trail complex. Straddling the Continental Divide, these trails are rugged and remote at elevations of 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Snowmobilers will find the skytop views of Glacier National Park, the Great Bear Wilderness and the Blackfoot Indian Reservation irresistible. A wide range of riding is available, from novice to expert, on 45 miles of groomed trails and another 35 miles of ungroomed trails. Guides are advisable on some of the trails. Steep slopes and sudden storms make for extreme weather conditions and avalanche danger. The Cut Bank Snogers maintain a portable relief station on the trail and a U.S. Forest Service guard station is staffed intermittently on weekends for information and safety. If you've never ridden these trails, join the Snogers on one of their regular club outings and let them guide you on one of Montana's most thrilling and scenic rides. Some of Montana's finest ski touring is in the immediate Glacier Park area.

**Trails:** Popular trails originating at Marias Pass are **Two Medicine, Skyland** and **Pike Creek**. These are rugged trails in the Lewis & Clark and Flathead national forests that cross the Continental Divide south of Glacier Park and north of the Great Bear Wilderness. There are additional ungroomed trails in the area.

**Services:** Snowmobile service and rentals, lodging and food are available at Essex, 15 miles west on US 2; lodging and food at East Glacier, 12 miles east.

**Events:** Organized outings with the Cut Bank Snogers Snowmobile Club, mid-month, December through April; fun run, mid-February; Fun Day, mid-March.

**Nearby Attractions:** Glacier National Park and the Great Bear Wilderness accessible by non-motorized travel; Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

**Location:** Marias Pass is midway between Cut Bank and Kalispell on US 2. Nearest airports are Kalispell, 65 miles west on US 2, and Great Falls, 150 miles southeast on US 89. Amtrak has daily east-west service with stops in Cut Bank, East Glacier and Essex.

**Maps & Information:** Cut Bank Snogers, P.O. Box 301, Cut Bank, MT 59427; Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1243, Cut Bank, MT 59427, 406-873-4041; Lewis & Clark National Forest, 1101 15th St. N., Box 869, Great Falls, MT 59403, 406-791-7700; Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Box 340, Choteau, MT 59422, 406-466-5341.

### Season:

December through April.

### Elevation:

Marias Pass, 5,280'; trails to 8,000'.

### Snow Conditions:

Best in February-March after snowpack settles.

### Snow Depth:

3' at lower elevations; 8' in mountains.

### Average Daytime Temp:

-10 to 30 degrees.



Sledding in Big Sky Country Neal & M.J. Mishler

## 2 HAUGAN/THOMPSON FALLS

Haugan offers snowmobiling opportunities for all abilities. This is one of those great places that combines vast riding possibilities with a family atmosphere. Trails begin right off I-90. Snowmobilers in this area enjoy 60 miles of groomed trails and countless more miles of ungroomed, accessible trails. There's downhill skiing on weekends at nearby Lookout Pass ski area and lots of cross-country ski territory,

too. You'll see lots of friendly faces at trailside stops in Haugan, St. Regis, De Borgia and Saltese.

Thompson Falls is one of the newest members of the Montana snowmobile trail family. With designated trails, open meadows, scenic views and abundant wildlife, this area should quickly win the title of "winter wonderland."

A groomed trail over Taft Summit ties in the loop trail system of Haugan with Thompson Falls trails. A scenic trail over Driveway Peak or Thompson Pass takes you to old mining towns in Idaho. As a bonus, cross-country skiing is superb on both of these trails.

**Trails:** In Haugan, popular groomed trails in the Lolo National Forest are **Ford Hill/Old Mullan Pass, Packer Creek/Randolph Creek, Packer**

**Creek/Timber Creek, Norpac, Milwaukee/Dominion and Taft Summit**. These are easy-to-intermediate trails that follow waterline routes and provide loop tours with access to meadows and play areas.

Most trails in the Thompson Falls system are easy-to-intermediate and provide access to many play areas. Also available is territory for the "Tulley Troopers."

**Services:** Fuel, food and lodging are available in Haugan, St. Regis, De Borgia, Saltese and Thompson Falls. Limited snowmobile service in Thompson Falls. Snowmobile sales and full service in Heron, 40 miles from Thompson Falls.

**Events:** Organized outings with the Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club on Saturdays; fun runs once a month; Super Fun Run, late February.

**Nearby Attractions:** Lookout Pass ski area; Lincoln's Silver \$ Bar.

**Location:** I-90 at Montana-Idaho border in northwest Montana. Nearest airports are Missoula, 90 miles east on I-90 and Spokane, 110 miles west.

**Maps & Information:** Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club, Box 242, Haugan, MT 59842, 406-678-4242; Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, P.O. Box 460, Superior, MT 59872, 406-822-4233; Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 493, Thompson Falls, MT 59873, 406-827-4930.

### Season:

November through April.

### Elevation:

Haugan-Lookout Pass, 4,725'; trails to 5,000'. Thompson Falls-Thompson Pass, 4,852'; trails to 6,407'.

### Snow Conditions:

Good snowpack throughout the season with best riding mid-January through February.

### Snow Depth:

3' at lower elevations; 8' in mountains.

### Average Daytime Temp:

30 to 35 degrees.



### 3 KALISPELL/COLUMBIA FALLS

For a complete winter vacation, it's hard to beat northwest Montana's scenic Flathead Valley. Within an hour's drive of its hub city of Kalispell, there is snowmobiling in the Flathead National Forest, downhill and Nordic skiing at The Big Mountain Ski and Summer Resort, ski touring in Glacier National Park and ice fishing in scenic settings. Four groomed trail systems cover 220 miles, plus hundreds of miles of ungroomed trails. The Canyon Creek Trail is reached by going north through Columbia Falls. You'll climb the backside of The Big Mountain to the Summit House in time for lunch.

Seven miles east of Columbia Falls on US 2 you will find the Desert Mountain Trailhead in the Hungry Horse District. There are outstanding destinations around Hungry Horse Reservoir. The ungroomed road to Spotted Bear allows access to many play areas. Just to be safe, it's recommended you bring a local enthusiast along on the trip. And remember to take plenty of gas, along on this trip!

**Trails:** **Canyon Creek** to The Big Mountain begins north of Columbia Falls accessing trails that lead to play areas and hill climbs before crossing Werner Peak to connect with the **Olney Creek** and **Taylor Creek** trails. **Olney Creek**, north of Whitefish, includes rides to Upper Whitefish Lake, Red Meadow Lake and scenic **Stryker Loop**. Between Hungry Horse and the Great Bear Wilderness is the **Desert Mountain** area and south of Bigfork, between Flathead Lake and Swan Lake, are the **Crane Mountain** and **Allard** areas. Avalanche dangers exist in some areas and may result in trail closures.

**Services:** The Flathead Valley offers a full range of visitor services, including snowmobile sales, service and rentals. Guided tours may be arranged through the Flathead Snowmobile Association. Lodging facilities range from small, independent motels to deluxe accommodations. Kalispell features a convention center.

**Events:** Grass drags in Columbia Falls in mid-October; Whitefish Winter Carnival, first weekend in February; Montana Cabin Fever Days in canyon communities east of Columbia Falls mid-February; Snowfest (a sanctioned race on the Montana circuit) late February, sponsored by the Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Nearby Attractions:** Glacier National Park; The Big Mountain Ski and Summer Resort; Flathead Lake.

**Location:** Kalispell is at the junction of US 93 and US 2 in northwest Montana. Fly into Kalispell or drive US 93 north-south or US 2 east-west. Amtrak has daily east-west rail service to Whitefish, 15 miles north.

#### Maps & Information: Columbia Falls Area Chamber of

**Commerce**, P.O. Box 312, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, 406-892-2072; **Flathead National Forest**, 1935 3rd Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-5401; **Glacier National Park**, West Glacier, MT 59936, 406-888-5441; **Flathead Snowmobile Association**, P.O. Box 5041, Kalispell, MT 59903, 406-756-6139; **Flathead Convention and Visitors Association**, 800-543-3105; **Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce**, 15 Depot Loop, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-752-6166; **South Fork Snowmobile Association**, Box 443, Hungry Horse, MT 59919, 406-387-9090; **Whitefish Chamber of Commerce**, P.O. Box 1120, 525 E. Third St., Whitefish, MT 59937, 406-862-3501.

#### Season:

Mid-December through April.

#### Elevation:

Kalispell, 2,956'; trails to 7,000'.

#### Snow Conditions:

Deep powder through January; best riding from mid-February to mid-April on hardpack snow.

#### Snow Depth:

3' at lower elevations; 12' in mountains.

#### Average Daytime Temp:

25 to 35 degrees.

### 4 LIBBY/TEN LAKES SCENIC AREA

Travel to Montana's extreme northwest corner and leave the rest of the world behind. High in the Cabinet and Purcell mountains, you can ride forever and see even farther. Ride across snow bridges and play in skytop bowls and spring drifts that measure up to 20 feet high! Drop a line through the ice on nearby Lake Koocanusa. Or test your ski legs at nearby Turner Mountain ski area. Headquarters for this year-round recreation area is the Scandinavian town of Libby, home of miners, loggers and all who love the outdoors. If you're looking for the "real" Montana, you're likely to find it here, or in the neighboring towns of Troy, Eureka, Fortine or Yaak. You may run into a crowd at a saloon called the Dirty Shame, but the only obstacle you're likely to encounter on the trail is an occasional moose.

Ten Lakes Scenic Area is one of Montana's best-kept secrets. Located northeast of Eureka on the U.S.-Canadian border, this area offers memorable views of Glacier National Park. The Ten Lakes Snowmobiling Club maintains 40 miles of groomed trails in the Kootenai National Forest. The Ten Lakes area anchors one end of the annual 600-mile Trans-Montana Ride from Reynolds Pass on the Idaho-Montana border to the Montana-Canada border at Ten Lakes. The direction of this charity event ride alternates each year.

**Trails:** Choose from 135 miles of groomed trails in the Kootenai National Forest. There's the rugged **Keeler-Rattle** trail system with its magnificent views of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and proposed Scotchman Peak Wilderness; the **Purcell Mountains** with 60 miles of loop trails and play areas, all near Turner Mountain ski area; and the **Pete Creek Trail** that travels to mountain bowls and alpine lakes.

**Services:** Food and lodging facilities are available in Libby, Troy, Yaak, Eureka and Fortine. Snowmobile service is available in Eureka, Fortine and Libby, with snowmobile sales in Libby. Guided tours can be arranged through the Lincoln County Sno-Kats Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Lincoln County Sno-Kats fireworks display, fun run and Snodeo at the Dirty Shame, New Year's Eve day; Trans-Montana Ride, third weekend in January. Sno-Kats endurance rides and moonlight rides are held regularly throughout the season.

**Nearby Attractions:** Turner Mountain ski area; kokanee salmon fishing on Lake Koocanusa; several cross-country ski trails and unlimited backcountry skiing.

**Location:** Libby is located on US 2 in extreme northwest Montana. Nearest airports are Kalispell, 90 miles east on US 2 and Spokane, 130 miles west on US 2. Eureka is 66 miles northwest of Kalispell.

**Maps & Information:** **Libby Ranger District**, Kootenai National Forest, 1263 Highway 37, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-8861; **Three Rivers Ranger District**, Kootenai National Forest, 1437 N. Highway 2, Troy, MT 59935, 406-295-4693; **Libby Chamber of Commerce**, P.O. Box 704, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-3832; **Lincoln County Sno-Kats Snowmobile Club**, 2072 Iron Creek Road, Troy, MT 59935, 406-295-5858; **Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club**, P.O. Box 131, Fortine, MT 59918, 406-882-4474.

#### Season:

Thanksgiving through mid-April.

#### Elevation:

Libby, 2,086'; trails to 5,800'. Fortine, 2,965'; trails to 5,800'.

#### Snow Conditions:

Deep powder until February; slightly packed the rest of the season.

#### Snow Depth:

3' at lower elevations; 8' in mountains.

#### Average Daytime Temp:

30 degrees.



## 5 LOLO PASS

Lewis and Clark were among the earliest visitors to the Lolo Pass area of western Montana. Searching the Rockies for passage to the Pacific Ocean, the expedition crossed the Bitterroot Mountains here in 1805 and again in 1806 on their return trip east. At Lolo Hot Springs, visitors can enjoy the same soothing waters that bathed the weary members of that famed expedition 185 years ago.

Starting either at Lolo Hot Springs or at Lolo Pass seven miles west, snowmobilers can conduct their own modern-day exploration, using 150 miles of groomed, connecting trails in the Lolo and Clearwater national forests. There is also a network of Nordic trails starting at Lolo Pass. Two downhill ski areas, about an hour from Lolo Pass, make this one of Montana's most popular winter sports areas. Gateway to it all is Missoula, home of the University of Montana, one of western Montana's cultural stars.

**Trails:** A series of interconnecting loop trails straddle two national forests on the Montana-Idaho border. **East Fork, Lost Park, Elk Meadows, Moose Ridge, Cooper Creek and Wagon Mountain** are just some of the trails that lead deep into the heart of the Bitterroot Range, with lots of meadows and play areas along the way.

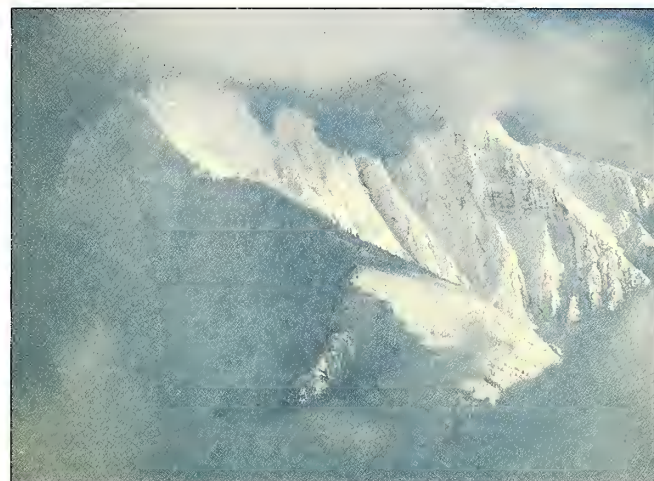
**Services:** Food, lodging and RV camping are available at Lolo Hot Springs. A full range of visitor services, including snowmobile sales and service, are available in Missoula. Rentals are available in Hamilton, one hour south of Lolo Hot Springs on US 93.

**Events:** Winter Sports & Travel Recreation Expo, October 23-25; Missoula Renaissance Fair, November 27-29; Forester's Ball, January 29 at the University of Montana; Western Montana Wine Festival, February 7 at various locations; Snowbowl Cup Gelände, February 27 at Snowbowl ski area; University basketball, January-March at the University of Montana.

**Nearby Attractions:** Montana Snowbowl and Marshall downhill ski areas; Lewis & Clark Trail; National Bison Range; Rattlesnake and Selway Bitterroot wilderness areas; University of Montana, Montana Repertory Theater; Missoula Children's Theatre; Fort Missoula; Aerial Fire Depot; Marcus Daly Mansion; St. Francis Xavier Church; St. Mary's and St. Ignatius missions.

**Location:** Lolo Pass is on US 12 at the Montana-Idaho border, 45 miles southwest of Missoula. Nearest airport is Missoula.

**Maps & Information:** Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Building 24A, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-329-3750; Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, Lolo, MT 59847, 208-942-3113; Missoula Convention & Visitors Bureau, 825 E. Front, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-543-6623, 800-526-3465.



Mission Mountains Wayne Mumford

Few people are content merely to look at the Mission Mountains. Maybe more than any other mountain range in Montana, these jagged peaks command a closer look. Snowmobilers can get into the non-wilderness portion of the Missions on a trail system that starts just east of Flathead Lake and goes all the way to the top of the range. On top, the Boulder Trail connects with extensive play areas and hill

climbs and provides expansive views of Flathead Lake, The Big Mountain Ski and Summer Resort and the Mission and Swan valleys. To the south, the less developed Jocko Lake Trail starts east of Arlee, crosses the Missions and drops into the Seeley Lake area. Visitors are advised to join the Mission Mountain Snowmobile Club on one of its weekly outings to become familiar with the trails since both include large ungroomed areas. Because the trails are on the Flathead Indian Reservation, snowmobilers need special recreation permits that are widely available at gas

stations and convenience stores on the reservation.

**Trails:** The **Boulder Trail** starts just off Montana 35 near Finley Point on Flathead Lake; the first 10 miles are groomed to the top of the range, where the trail connects with nearly 60 miles of ungroomed trails through forest openings. The ungroomed **Jocko Lake Trail** provides a 55-mile ride over the Missions that connects with groomed trails on the Seeley Lake side.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service are available in Ronan. The nearest rentals are in Kalispell and Columbia Falls. Guided tours may be arranged through the Mission Mountain Snowmobile Club in Ronan. A wide variety of food and lodging services are available throughout the Mission and Flathead valleys.

**Events:** Weekly Sunday outings are organized by the Mission Mountain Snowmobile Club. The club's spring picnic and fun run, mid-March in the Boulder area.

**Nearby Attractions:** Ice fishing for mackinaw and salmon on Flathead Lake; historic St. Ignatius Mission; National Bison Range; Mission Mountain Wilderness; The Big Mountain Ski and Summer Resort; ski touring in Glacier National Park; the lively Flathead Valley hub city of Kalispell; and Missoula, an energetic university city.

**Location:** Ronan is located between Missoula and Kalispell on US 93 in western Montana. Nearest airports are Missoula, 55 miles south, and Kalispell, 65 miles north.

**Maps & Information:** Mission Mountain Snowmobile Club, 112 Main Street S.W., Ronan, MT 59864, 406-676-5000.

**Season:**  
Mid-December through April.

**Elevation:**  
Missoula, 3,200';  
Lolo Hot Springs, 4,160';  
trails to 5,900'.

**Snow Conditions:**  
Western Montana's pacific northwest climate makes hardpack snow throughout most of the season.

**Snow Depth:**  
1' at lower elevations;  
15' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**  
Mid-20s.

**Season:**  
Early December through April.

**Elevation:**  
Ronan, 3,200';  
trails to 7,000'.

**Snow Conditions:**  
Powder snow through February; hardpack until the end of the season.

**Snow Depth:**  
2' at lower elevations;  
10' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**  
25 to 35 degrees.



## 7 SEELEY LAKE

Tucked between the Mission Mountains and the Swan Range on scenic Montana 83, Seeley Lake is one of western Montana's most popular year-round recreation areas. Boats and bicycles are commonly seen here in the summer, but as the snow piles high in winter, snowmobiles are the best way to get around. Starting right from town, snowmobilers can choose from 15 popular groomed trails providing 230 miles of riding in the Lolo National Forest. Fanning out in nearly every direction are trails to scenic lookouts, cozy lodges, cafes, and backcountry lakes for ice fishing. These diverse trails share a common trait—surrounded by national forest, lakes and mountain ranges, they offer the best in alpine scenery. Winter is a peak season here and residents celebrate it every chance they get at festive events for snowmobilers, skiers and sled dog mushers. With a population of 2,000, Seeley Lake is big enough to provide the services you need and small enough to provide them with a smile.

**Trails:** Popular trails include **Double Arrow Lookout**, with views of the Swan Range and Clearwater Valley; **Elsina Lake**, site of Sunday cookouts with the Seeley Lake Driftriders Snowmobile Club; **Seeley Lake-Ovando**, a favorite for those who like to dine and dash; **Marshall Lake**, a scenic 15-mile loop and **Holland Lake**, a difficult, high elevation ride that rewards its finishers with a friendly lodge and cabins on a beautiful lake.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales, service and rentals, plus lodging and food are available in Seeley Lake. Lodging available at Holland Lake Lodge. Limited services are available on the trail. Guided tours can be arranged through the Seeley Lake Driftriders Club.

**Events:** Winterfest, three days of snowmobile races and social events, mid-January; Seeley 200 Sled Dog Race, last weekend in January; OSCR Nordic Races, first weekend in February; Race to the Sky 500-Mile Sled Dog Race with mandatory eight-hour layover in Seeley Lake, mid-February; Snowmobilavous with games, fun runs and food, Presidents' weekend in February.

**Nearby Attractions:** Ice fishing for trout, salmon and bass on area lakes; ski touring; scenic Montana 83; Bob Marshall Wilderness.

**Location:** 15 miles north of junction Montana 83 and 200 in western Montana. Nearest airport is Missoula, 60 miles west via Montana 200 and I-90.

**Maps & Information:** Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Box 717, Seeley Lake, MT 59868, 406-677-2233; Seeley Lake Driftriders, Box 174, Seeley Lake, MT 59868; Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 516, Seeley Lake, MT 59868, 406-677-2880.

<b>Season:</b>	Mid-December through April.
<b>Elevation:</b>	Seeley Lake, 4,000'; trails to 7,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>	Powder early season; turning to packed powder.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>	3' at lower elevations; 12' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>	Mid-to-high 20s.

## 8 SKALKAHO

One of Montana's least-traveled snowmobile areas is one of the most scenic. The Skalkaho Pass area is in the Sapphire Mountains in the sprawling Bitterroot National Forest in southwest Montana. This is a land of lofty peaks, vast forests and lovely rivers. It has been attracting visitors since 1805, when Lewis and Clark first entered the south end of the Bitterroot Valley. Following their lead were fur traders, missionaries, copper kings and timber barons. Today, the Bitterroot is home to small businesses and friendly people. It is dotted with small towns, hidden resorts, hot springs and historic sites. In summer, the Skalkaho Highway from Hamilton to the Georgetown Lake area is a scenic alternative to I-90. In winter, it is the kind of trail that snowmobilers dream about. Closed to automobile traffic, it allows privileged views of frozen Skalkaho Falls, tall peaks and deep canyons.



Exploring Montana's trails Photo courtesy Polaris

**Trails:** Skalkaho Drainage Area offers 70 miles of groomed trails. Skalkaho Highway offers 30 miles of groomed trails that

take snowmobilers to the top of the pass, then toward Sand Basin and Dam Lake. From there, open areas and ungroomed trails offer a wide variety of terrain for all skill levels. **South Fork of Skalkaho** has 40 miles of groomed trails, looping through higher elevations, through a burned area and back to the head of Rye Creek. The loop can also be entered from Rye Creek, south of Darby.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales, service and rentals are available in Hamilton. A wide variety of food and lodging are available in Hamilton and throughout the Bitterroot Valley.

**Events:** Bitterroot Ridge Runners Fun Run, first Sunday in February; Spring Picnic, second Sunday in March at Hogan's Cabin, Lost Trail Pass area.

**Nearby Attractions:** Lost Trail ski area; Selway Bitterroot, Welcome Creek and Anaconda-Pintler wilderness areas; Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge; Marcus Daly Mansion; St. Mary's Mission; ski touring and hot springs resorts.

**Location:** Trailhead is 15 miles east of Hamilton. Hamilton is 50 miles south of Missoula on US 93 in southwest Montana. Nearest airport is Missoula.

**Maps & Information:** Bitterroot National Forest Office, 1801 N. 1st St., Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-3131; **Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest**, P.O. Box 388, Darby, MT 59829, 406-821-3913; **Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce**, 105 E. Main St., Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-363-2400; **Bitterroot Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club**, P.O. Box 265, Hamilton MT 59840, 406-363-4689.

<b>Season:</b>	Early December through April.
<b>Elevation:</b>	Hamilton, 3,572'; Skalkaho Pass, 7,260'; trails to 8,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>	Powder early, with hardpack developing as season progresses.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>	2' at lower elevations; 8' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>	Mid-20s.



## GLACIER COUNTRY LODGING

**AERO INN**, 1830 US Hwy 93 S., Kalispell 59901, 406-755-3798, 800-843-6114, FAX 752-1304. Located 15 miles from the Flathead trail system. Features an indoor heated pool, sauna, hot tub, free continental breakfast and winter car plug-ins. Kitchenette and group rates available. Business member MSA. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$ & \$\$

**BAY POINT ESTATES**, 300 Bay Point Dr., Box 35, Whitefish 59937, 406-862-2331, 800-327-2108, FAX 862-2331. Near the Flathead trail system featuring completely furnished condominiums with indoor pool, fireplaces, DD telephones, cable TV, sauna and jacuzzi. Packages available. VI MC \$\$\$

**BEST WESTERN OUTLAW INN**, 1701 US Hwy 93 S., Kalispell 59901, 406-755-6100, 800-247-9707 (in MT), 800-237-7445 (outside MT), FAX 756-8994. Near the Flathead trail system featuring fine dining, entertainment, lounge, gift shop, jacuzzi, two pools and snowmobile packages. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**BLUE & WHITE MOTEL, INC.**, 640 E. Idaho, Box 249, Kalispell 59901, 406-755-4311, 800-341-8000 (in MT), 800-382-3577 (outside MT), FAX 755-4300. Central location near the Flathead trail system, pool, sauna, jacuzzi, free continental breakfast, rooms for disabled persons, non-smoking rooms available. 107 rooms located in the heart of fishing, skiing; casinos are near, and plenty of available parking. VI MC AX DC DSC \$\$

**COMFORT INN-WHITEFISH**, 6390 S. US Hwy 93, Whitefish 59937, 406-862-4020, 800-456-1064, FAX 862-4115. Located near the Flathead trail system. Brand new in 1991, 90-foot waterslide open year-round, two large outdoor spas, two queen beds per room, free continental breakfast, indoor swimming pool. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**DIAMOND LIL INN**, 1680 US Hwy 93 S, Kalispell 59901, 406-752-3467, 800-843-7301, FAX 752-3489. Located near the Flathead trail system. Outdoor hot tubs, laundry facility, free local phone calls, cable TV. Restaurant, lounge and casino on site. Non-smoking rooms available. All rooms have exterior entrances. VI MC AX DC DSC \$

**DOWNTOWN MOTEL**, 502 E. Broadway, Missoula 59802, 406-549-5191. 22 units located near the Lolo and Seeley Lake trail systems. Clean, friendly and convenient to Missoula, shopping & University of Montana. Parking available, winter rates. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$

**4 B'S INNS**, 3803 Brooks, Missoula 59801, 406-251-2665, 800-272-9500, FAX 251-5733. Snowmobilers special of \$39.95 (two-four persons, two queen beds). Snowmobile at Lolo Hot Springs (35 miles), shop and party in exciting Missoula! Call for snow conditions and reservations. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$





## GLACIER COUNTRY LODGING (CONT.)

**GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 1205 US Hwy 93 W., Whitefish 59937, 406-862-3000, 800-321-8822, FAX 862-0326. Montana's finest resort/conference center. Located on the Glacier Nordic Touring Center and only eight miles from The Big Mountain. 145 rooms (some with kitchenettes), Logan's Bar & Grill, lounge, swimming pool and spas. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**HOLIDAY INN MISSOULA-PARKSIDE**, 200 S. Pattee St., Missoula 59802, 406-721-8550, 800-HOLIDAY, FAX 721-7427. Located in downtown Missoula featuring 200 well-appointed rooms, restaurant, indoor swimming pool with sauna and hot tub, casino, complimentary airport shuttle service, car rental agency and gift shop. Plenty of parking available. Packages and group rates available. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**HOLLAND LAKE LODGE**, S.R. Box 2083, Condon 59826, 406-754-2282, 800-648-8859, FAX 862-3103. Located on Montana 83 between Missoula and Kalispell. Packed snowmobile trails and loop roads. Lodge features cabins, rooms, restaurant, cocktail lounge and sauna. VI MC \$ & \$\$

**LAUGHING WATER RANCH**, 20 Deep Creek Rd., Box 157M, Fortine, MT 59918, 406-882-4680, FAX 882-4880. Located in the beautiful Kootenai Mountains in Theriault Basin near the Canadian border. Lodge with restaurant, recreation room, outdoor hot tub, dinner sleigh rides. Groomed trails. Year-round activities include summer dude ranch. Package/group rates. AX MC DC VI CB DSC \$\$

**LOLO HOT SPRINGS RESORT**, 38500 US Hwy 12 W., Lolo 59847, 406-273-2290. Featuring lodging, eatery, lounge and naturally heated mineral pools, open 365 days a year. Over 150 miles of groomed trails and thousands of acres of play areas in the Lolo Pass area. Enjoy some of the finest snowmobiling from our back door. Snowmobile rentals. VI MC \$\$

**MARINA CAY RESORT**, 180 Vista Lane, Box 663, Bigfork 59911, 406-837-5861, 800-433-6516, FAX 837-1118. Located near Crane Mountain trails featuring accommodations ranging from single rooms to one, two and three bedroom suites with complete kitchens. Restaurant, lounge, meeting facilities, hot tub, guest laundry and gift shop. Parking available. Group rates available. VI MC AX DC \$\$

**MOUNTAIN SHADOWS MOTEL**, P.O. Box 0, Columbia Falls 59912, 406-892-7686. Located near the Flathead trail system featuring a restaurant, campground, laundry and kitchenettes. Plenty of parking available. VI MC DSC \$

**MOUNTAIN TIMBERS LODGE**, 5385 Rabe Rd., Columbia Falls 59912, 406-387-5830, 800-841-3835, FAX 387-5835. Located just four miles from the Flathead National Forest snowmobile trailhead. One mile outside Glacier National Park, with beautiful views into the center of the park. The lodge is built out of 450-year old tamarack logs. Separate game, audio/video and workout rooms, as well as a library. Your stay includes full breakfast. VI MC \$\$\$

**PLUM CREEK HOUSE**, 985 Vans Ave., Columbia Falls 59912, 406-892-1816. Two miles from Canyon Creek. Private baths, queen beds, televisions, phones, VCR, heated swimming pool (May-Sept.), year-round jacuzzi. Located on National Wild and Scenic Flathead River. Family suite with full kitchen, two baths, queens, roll-aways. VI MC DSC \$\$\$

**SUPER 8 MOTEL**, 3901 S. Brooks, Missoula 59801, 406-251-2255, 800-800-8000, FAX 251-2989. Four miles from Blue Mountain trail, closest Missoula motel to Lolo trail system. Continental breakfast, outdoor plug-ins, truck/trailer parking. Ski packages and large group discounts. 24-hour dining, one block. Close to Southgate Mall and snowmobile dealers. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**SUPER 8 MOTEL**, I-90 Exit 33, St. Regis 59866, 406-649-2422, 800-800-8000. Located 18 miles from 50 miles of groomed trails at Haugan, MT. Many areas close by. Free coffee. Plenty of parking available. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**SWAN VALLEY SUPER 8 LODGE**, Box 1278, Condon 59826, 406-754-2688, 800-800-8000. Located at mile marker 46.5, Montana 83, junction of Cold Creek Road. Miles of excellent snowmobiling on the east side of the Mission Mountains, logging trails, clear cuts and beautiful views. Kitchenette and plenty of parking. VI MC AX DC DSC \$ & \$\$

**THE BIG MOUNTAIN SKI AND SUMMER RESORT**, Box 1400, Whitefish 59937, 406-862-3511, 800-858-5439, FAX 862-1467. Located just eight miles from Whitefish, we offer economy lodging at Hibernation House (breakfast included), or choose from one of our Alpine Village Homes. Skiing, restaurants, lodging. Plenty of parking. Group rates available. VI MC AX \$ - \$\$\$

**TOWNHOUSE INNS OF HAMILTON**, 1115 N. First, Hamilton 59840, 406-363-6600, 800-442-4667. Our conveniently located motel features the amenities you need, including spa/sauna, and fitness center at a price that won't keep you off the trails. Our specialty rooms are the best around. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**VILLAGE RED LION INN**, 100 Madison St., Missoula 59802, 406-728-3100, 800-547-8010 (outside MT), FAX 728-2530. Near the Lolo trail system, featuring restaurant, lounge with live music Tuesday-Saturday. Gift shop, hair salon and handicap facilities. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**WILDLIFE OUTFITTERS GUEST RANCH**, 1765 Pleasant View Dr., Victor 59875, 406-642-3262, 800-955-8505, FAX 642-3625. Guided half-day, full-day or overnight snowmobile trips on the Bitterroot and Clearwater national forests of Montana and Idaho. Accommodations, food, etc. available. Packages and group rates available. Come have some fun with "WILDLIFE ADVENTURES, INC." Free information. AX \$\$

### Room Rates

Room rates are based on double occupancy for the 1993 winter season and are subject to change.

\$ Under \$40  
\$\$ Between \$40 and \$60  
\$\$\$ Over \$60

### Credit Cards

VI Visa  
MC Master Card  
AX American Express  
DC Diners Club  
CB Carte Blanche  
DSC Discover





## GLACIER COUNTRY SERVICES

**ADVENTURE MOTOR SPORTS**, 1805 US Hwy 2 W., Columbia Falls 59912, 406-892-2752, 800-531-3511, FAX 892-1229. Tour the beautiful mountains of the Flathead with over 250 miles of groomed trails, spreading from Columbia Falls to the Canadian border. Rentals range from \$60 to \$95. Group rates available. Guide services and/or lodging with rental packages. Full-line Yamaha dealer - sales, service, parts, accessories. Call for reservations. VI MC AX

**MIDDLE FORK RECREATION**, Box 234, West Glacier 59936, 406-387-5556, 800-933-5133, FAX 888-5764. Located at the trailhead for the Flathead system. Snowmobile rentals \$79-99 full day, \$60 half-day. Arctic Cat Jags and Panthers rentals. Complete bed and sled packages with group rates. Serving The Big Mountain and Flathead Valley seven days a week since 1985. Family fun at great rates. VI MC DSC



Desert Mountain area Wayne Mumford

### A FEW TIPS...

The following tips will enhance your enjoyment of a Montana snowmobile vacation.

#### HIGH ALTITUDE PERFORMANCE

The higher elevations of the West make demands on an engine that require special tuning. At high elevations there is less oxygen, so an engine that has been tuned for low elevations will run too rich. Properly jetting the carburetor and adjusting the clutch are the keys to enjoyable riding on Montana's high mountain trails. A good dealer will supply a specification chart for jetting and clutching a machine he sells. Talk with other snowmobilers in the area to locate a trusted and competent mechanic.

#### WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Trees transformed by snow into ghosts. A herd of elk moving through sunlight on snow. These are images you will want to capture forever on film. Winter photography can be tricky, but keep these tips in mind and you should be able to fill your photo album with memories of your Montana vacation.

- Keep camera, batteries and film warm by storing them close to your body.

- Pack an extra battery.

- Advance and rewind film slowly to keep cold, brittle film from breaking.

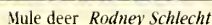
- Avoid fogging your lens by brushing snow off, not by blowing it off.

- Meter from the palm of your hand and open up one stop. That way, you're metering according to light conditions and not according to a snowy landscape that can deceive your light meter.

- For color film, use a polarizer on clear days and color conversion filter on overcast days.

- Place camera, lenses and film in airtight plastic bags before entering a warm room to keep condensation away. Remove from bags when they have warmed up.

- When photographing or watching wildlife, remember birds and animals must conserve energy to survive the chilling months. Cameras with long lenses will bring you close without threatening the wildlife.



*It was gold that lured Montana's earliest fortune seekers to the mountains and rivers of southwest Montana. Today, Gold West Country draws winter recreationists to its snowy peaks. Visit the most famous gold camp of them all—Virginia City—when its boardwalks, bustling in the summer, are silenced by snowfall. Other treasures that await the winter visitor are hot springs resorts, ghost towns, ice fishing on Georgetown and Canyon Ferry lakes, a living history cattle ranch, antique Ford museum and some of the friendliest ski areas in the West. Visitors to Butte can view the mansions and copper mines where some of Montana's greatest political wars were fought over possession of "the richest hill on earth." In Helena, visitors can trace the capital city's gold-rich history along Main Street, still called Last Chance Gulch. Some of Gold West Country's best events are winter events, like the national and international speedskating competition in Butte and the Race to the Sky 500-Mile Sled Dog Race starting and ending in Helena.*





By the Clark Fork River on I-90 in a long valley between snow-covered mountains, is the historic city of Deer Lodge. This easily accessible area is a hit with family groups as well as those looking for adventure. This is the spot for enthusiasts who love wide open spaces under a big blue sky.

**Trails:** The snowmobile trailhead is eight miles southeast of the city center and has ample parking. 40 miles of marked and groomed trails lead to Champion Pass, the Continental Divide, Leadville, White Horse and other points of interest.

**Services:** Food, lodging, fuel and vehicle repair in Deer Lodge. Snowmobile repair in Butte, 40 miles east.

**Events:** Fun Run and Chili Feed, February; weekly rides with the Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club.

**Nearby Attractions:** Historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch; Towe Ford Museum; Old Montana Territorial Prison; Montana Law Enforcement Museum.

**Location:** 80 miles east of Missoula and 40 miles west of Butte in west-central Montana. Accessed from I-90.

**Maps & Information:** Deerlodge Ranger District, Deerlodge National Forest, 91 N. Frontage Rd., Deer Lodge, MT 59722, 406-846-1770; Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club, P.O. Box 44, Deer Lodge, MT 59722.

<b>Season:</b>
December through April.
<b>Elevation:</b>
5,300' at the trailhead; trails to 8,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Powder snow early. Blowing and drifting snow on open slopes and ridges.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
2' at lower elevations; 6' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
0 to 30 degrees.

One of Montana's better kept secrets lies in the pristine mountain valleys in the southwest corner of the state. The mountains are the Pioneers and the place is the Grasshopper and Big Hole Valleys. The Beaverhead Sno-Riders maintain more than 150 miles of trails in the Beaverhead National Forest, and on state and private land. There are another 200 miles of ungroomed trails. The trail system follows a scenic route between Wise River and the Grasshopper Valley, recently designated a National Forest Scenic Byway.

**Trails:** Trails to the ghost town of Coolidge and the Elkhorn Mine. Major groomed trails heading west tie into the **Wisdom** trail system at Bear Lake (see Wisdom), and head north to the **Wise River** trail system (see Wise River). Heading south to **Reservoir Lake** you can join the trails of the Salmon, Idaho club.

**Services:** Food, lodging and cross-country ski trails are available at Elkhorn Hot Springs and Grasshopper Inn. Swimming at Elkhorn. Food, fuel, lodging and other services in nearby Dillon. Rental Forest Service cabins at Bear Lake and Reservoir Lake.

**Events:** Torchlight Parade at Maverick Mountain ski area, December 31; fun run, mid-January.

**Nearby Attractions:** Unlimited cross-country ski trails; Maverick Mountain downhill ski area; Bannack State Park (preserved gold mining town and Montana's first territorial capital); Big Hole Battlefield National Monument.

**Location:** 27 miles northwest of Dillon, off Route 278, in southwest Montana. May be reached from the north from Montana 43. Nearest airport is Butte, about one hour north on I-15. Daily north-south bus service to Dillon.

**Maps & Information:** Dillon Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725, 406-683-3900; Beaverhead Sno-Riders, P.O. Box 898, Dillon, MT 59875.

<b>Season:</b>
Thanksgiving through mid-April.
<b>Elevation:</b>
Dillon, 5,100'; trails to 8,400'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Improve as season progresses; excellent spring season.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
5' at lower elevations; 7' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
0 to 32 degrees.



Less than a century ago, a prosperous gold mining town in western Montana's Garnet Range boasted a dozen saloons, numerous hotels, brothels, stores, blacksmith shops, and homes for more than a thousand residents. The decline of the gold rush era and a fire in 1911 left the town of Garnet with only a few of its original structures. By 1950 it housed only ghosts. But today, thanks to the Garnet Preservation Association and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, it is active again. A 100-mile trail system has opened the town to snowmobilers and skiers, providing a tangible link to an important era in the development of the Rocky Mountain West. Besides Kelly's Saloon, Davey's Store, the J.K. Wells Hotel and some of the other buildings that have been preserved, visitors enjoy spectacular views of the Blackfoot Valley, the Mission Mountains, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Pintler Range. Cabin rentals in town and elsewhere in the Garnet Range make this a unique winter experience.

**Trails:** The core of this trail system is the 31.5-mile **Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail**, which takes snowmobilers and skiers into the heart of the ghost town and the surrounding area. Secondary trails, including **First Chance Gulch**, **Top O'Deep**, **Chamberlain Creek**, and **Union Peak** take recreationists to higher elevations and more remote cabins and mines.

**Services:** There are no commercial services in Garnet. Cabin rentals are available through the Garnet Preservation Association. A visitor center is open on weekends. A full range of services, including snowmobile sales and service, is available in Missoula, 30 miles west on Montana 200. Food and lodging are also available in Drummond off I-90 south of Garnet.

**Nearby Attractions:** Missoula, home of the University of Montana; Seeley Lake, popular snowmobile area.

**Location:** The ghost town is about 30 miles east of Missoula and can be reached from either Montana 200 or I-90. Nearest airport is Missoula.

**Maps & Information:** **Garnet Resource Area**, Bureau of Land Management, 3255 Fort Missoula Rd., Missoula, MT 59801, 406-329-3914; **Garnet Preservation Association**, P.O. Box 8531, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-329-3914; **Missoula Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 825 E. Front, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-543-6623, 800-526-3465.

**Season:**

January through April.

**Elevation:**

4,200' at the trailhead; trails to 7,000'.

**Snow Conditions:**

Powder snow early in the season, turning to hardpack as season progresses. Blowing and drifting on open slopes and ridge tops.

**Snow Depth:**

2' at lower elevations; 4' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**

10 to 30 degrees



Garnet Ghost Town John Reddy



## 12 GEORGETOWN LAKE

One of Montana's most popular lakes is the centerpiece of a winter sports area that offers snowmobiling, ice fishing, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Located on the Pintler Scenic Route, Georgetown Lake is surrounded by mountains and wilderness. To the west lie the Sapphires, to the north, the Flint Creek Range and to the south, the high peaks of the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. In and around these mountains lies a 90-mile network of groomed snowmobile trails, many more miles of ungroomed trails and a vast play area on and around the lake. There's an abundance of silver salmon in Georgetown Lake and fun at nearby downhill slopes, Nordic trails and mineral hot springs swimming pools. This is a friendly, family area where winter sports are a way of life and winter snowfall is cause for celebration. Winter visitors are welcome—there's lots to do and plenty of space for all who love winter.

**Trails:** Four major trail systems include **Carp Ridge**, which ends at the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness boundary; **Peterson Meadows**, a popular spot for cookouts and picnics; **Red Lion-Racetrack Lake** with ridgetop views of surrounding peaks; and **Echo Lake**, halfway between Georgetown Lake and Discovery Basin ski area. Another popular trail, **Storm Lake**, leads to the northeast edge of the wilderness.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service are available in nearby Philipsburg and Anaconda. Fuel, food and lodging are available at Georgetown Lake and in Philipsburg and Anaconda. Guided tours may be arranged through the Anaconda Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Active snowmobile and service clubs sponsor a number of fun runs, drag races and cookouts throughout the winter; "International" features six weekends of indoor and outdoor sporting events in the Anaconda-Butte area, February to mid-March; St. Patrick's Day, Anaconda and Butte, March 17.

**Nearby Attractions:** Discovery Basin downhill ski area; Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness; Copper Village Museum & Art Center, Washoe Theater and antique train display, all in Anaconda; U.S. High Altitude Sports Center, Copper King Mansion, Arts Chateau, Mineral Museum, Berkeley Pit and Our Lady of the Rockies, all in Butte.

**Location:** Pintler Scenic Route (Montana 1 between Drummond and Anaconda, off I-90 in southwest Montana). Nearest airports are Butte, 50 miles east and Missoula, 80 miles west.

**Maps & Information:** **Philipsburg Ranger District**, Deerlodge National Forest, P.O. Box H, Philipsburg, MT 59858, 406-859-3211; **Anaconda Snowmobile Club**, 1919 W. Park, Anaconda, MT 59711, 406-563-8182.



Race to the Sky Garry Wunderwald

If snowmobiling were all Montana's state capital had to offer, winter visitors would return again and again just to explore the mountains and trails within an hour's drive of the city. Extending from Helena in nearly every direction are 245 miles of trails leading to ghost towns, high mountain ridges and lakes, plus unlimited exploring on thousands of acres of national forest.

But Helena has so much more. There is downhill and cross-country skiing atop the Continental Divide; the annual February 500-mile Race to the Sky, the longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states; and ice fishing at nearby lakes. And there's the city itself, once known as "Queen of the Rockies." Soak up her rich mining and political history from the State Capitol to historic Last Chance Gulch.

**Trails:** There are three major trail systems, all within a 30-minute drive of Helena. The **Marysville** area has 45 miles of

groomed trails that form three interconnected loops. The old mining towns of Austin and Marysville are fun to explore. Just 10 miles from Helena is the **Minnehaha-Rimini** area with 120 miles of groomed trails that explore the Little Blackfoot River Valley west to Elliston and south to Basin, with several meadows and lakes east of the divide. Northeast of Helena, there are 45 miles of groomed trails in the **Maggie-Sunshine** area that include portions of the scenic **Figure Eight** route, views of the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and a side trip to the Hogback Mountain Lookout.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales, service and rentals, plus a full range of lodging and food services are available in Helena. Guided tours may be arranged through the Helena Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Organized outings with the Helena Snowdrifters every Sunday, or as requested by phone or mail.

**Nearby Attractions:** Great Divide downhill ski area; MacDonald Pass ski touring area; ice fishing on Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter lakes; State Capitol; Montana Historical Society; Holter Museum of Art; Original Governor's Mansion; St. Helena Cathedral.

**Location:** Helena is at the junction of I-15, US 12 and US 287, on the east slope of the Rockies in western Montana. Fly into Helena or drive I-15 or US 287 north-south or US 12 east-west.

**Maps & Information:** **Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest**, 2001 Poplar, Helena, MT 59601, 406-449-5490; **Helena Snowdrifters**, 2507 Roberts, Helena, MT 59601, 406-443-7487; **Helena Chamber of Commerce**, 201 East Lyndale, Helena, MT 59601, 406-442-4120.

**Season:**  
Mid-December through April.

**Elevation:**  
Georgetown, 6,400';  
trails to 9,000'.

**Snow Conditions:**  
Well-packed trails are  
groomed five days a week.

**Snow Depth:**  
2' at lower elevations;  
8' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**  
15 to 20 degrees.

**Season:**  
December through March.

**Elevation:**  
Helena, 4,000';  
trails to 8,000'.

**Snow Conditions:**  
Improve as season progresses  
and snowpack settles.

**Snow Depth:**  
2' at lower elevations;  
6' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**  
High-20s to low-30s.



Start your weekend with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate at the Ponderosa Snow Warriors' clubhouse and then explore more than 160 miles of groomed trails in the popular winter sports area around Lincoln. Eight major trail systems start right in town, where sledding is permitted on streets and roads. Head over Huckleberry Pass to another 230 miles of groomed trails in the Seeley Lake area. Easy trails south of Lincoln connect the Blackfoot Valley with the scenic Nevada Creek area. The possibilities are endless in this friendly mountain town surrounded by forests, lakes and the beautiful Blackfoot River. Gateway to some of Montana's most popular backcountry, Lincoln attracts outdoor recreationists all year long. Backpacks, hiking boots and fly rods—the essential gear of summer—give way to snowmobiles, Nordic skis and dog sleds in winter.



Heading out Wayne Scherr

**Trails:** Popular trails include scenic **Huckleberry Pass**, which connects two extensive trail systems in **Lincoln** and **Seeley Lake**; **Dalton Mountain**, an easy trail with lots of play areas south of town; **Keep Cool**, a scenic lake tour; and **Alice Creek**, a scenic route with play areas. There are a few restricted areas but lots of play areas and plenty of variety for all skill levels. You're likely to share these trails with local populations of elk and deer.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service, lodging and food are all available in Lincoln. Guided tours can be arranged through the Ponderosa Snow Warriors Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Lincoln is a checkpoint for the Race to the Sky 500-Mile Sled Dog Race, second week in February; Trans-Montana Ride passes through in January; Ponderosa Snow Warriors fun runs throughout the season.

**Nearby Attractions:** Seeley Lake snowmobile trail system; ice fishing for rainbow trout on Brown's Lake; Scapegoat and adjoining Bob Marshall wilderness areas.

**Location:** Lincoln is midway between Great Falls and Missoula on Montana 200. Nearest airports are Great Falls, 90 miles northeast, Missoula, 80 miles west, and Helena, 60 miles southeast on Route 279.

**Maps & Information:** **Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest**, Box 219 Lincoln, MT 59639, 406-362-4265; **Ponderosa Snow Warriors**, Box 955, Lincoln, MT 59639, 406-362-4230 or 362-4527.

<b>Season:</b>
December 1 through April 15.
<b>Elevation:</b>
Lincoln, 4,575'; trails to 8,200'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Powder snow early; hardpack from February. February and March are prime for snowmobiling.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
3' at lower elevations; 12' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
Mid-20s.

One of Montana's most popular summer attractions, the restored gold mining camp of Virginia City is a treasure in winter. An 1863 gold strike lured thousands of fortune seekers to its main street, Alder Gulch. Within weeks, an estimated 10,000 people were living here and a continuous string of tents and cabins lined the gulch for 14 miles. During the summer, thousands of visitors relive the gold

rush era at the Bale of Hay Saloon, the Opera House, the Fairweather Hotel and many other buildings, shops and museums in Virginia City and nearby Nevada City. In winter, these buildings are shrouded in snow, ghostly reminders of one of the West's most colorful periods. Virginia City's winter population numbers about 100 residents who gladly share their unique community with snowmobilers. Sledding is permitted in town and building tours may be arranged for groups. Within sledding distance of town is a trail system that opens up the Gravelly Range and will soon be connected to West Yellowstone. You will enjoy the magnificent views of the Madison Range, the Ruby Range and the Tobacco Root Mountains, the big open meadows and the great open beauty of this area.

**Trails:** The 54-mile **Gravelly Range** trail system in the Beaverhead National Forest follows Alder Gulch Canyon, one of the oldest cattle trails in Montana and takes you to old mining claims and the ghost town of Summit City. Side trips include the **Bachelor Creek Loop** to the top of the Gravelly Range, **Clover Meadows** and **Axolotl Lake**. Experienced snowmobilers may sled to seven high mountain lakes with high rock faces in the **Meadow Creek** area of the Beaverhead National Forest, north of Virginia City in the Tobacco Roots.

**Services:** Food, fuel and lodging, snowmobile rentals and service available in Ennis. Bed & breakfast in Virginia City.

**Events:** Virginia City Snowmobile Fun Run, early January; Cabin Fever Winter Festival, mid-February.

**Nearby Attractions:** Yellowstone National Park, 85 miles southeast; Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, 65 miles northeast.

**Location:** Ennis is located on US 287, 45 miles south of I-90 and 70 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, in southwest Montana. Virginia City is 14 miles west of Ennis on US 287.

**Maps & Information:** **Madison Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest**, 5 Forest Service Road, Ennis, MT 59729, 406-682-4253; **Madison Valley Snow Snakes**, P.O. Box 106, Cameron, MT 59720, 406-682-7152; **Vigilante Snowmobilers**, Box 145, Virginia City, MT 59755, 406-843-5484 or 682-7755.

<b>Season:</b>
December through mid-April.
<b>Elevation:</b>
Virginia City, 5,822'; trails to 8,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Early season powder hardens in mid-winter for fast sledding.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
1' at lower elevations; 6' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
10 to 30 degrees.



Indians, fur trappers, traders, miners and ranchers are among those who have been drawn to the scenic, high mountain valley called the Big Hole Basin, but few have stayed. The long winters and cold temperatures that keep people from settling in this pristine valley make it perfect for snowmobiling. Cold, dry powder snow comes early and stays late, assuring great sledding for snowmobilers who can't get enough winter. If bright lights and big cities are an important part of your winter vacation, Wisdom is probably not for you. But if you seek challenge and solitude and don't mind sharing the trails with moose, elk and other wintering wildlife, Wisdom might be just the place you've been looking for. There are friendly folks in town to keep you company after the sun goes down, plus hot springs resorts, downhill and cross-country skiing and a basin full of frontier and Indian lore.



Winter fun! Scott Spiker

**Trails:** Join the popular **Wise River-Polaris Trail** (see Dillon) and **Wise River** trails (see Wise River) or the **Steel Creek** trails just east of Wisdom. Enroute, you will reach an elevation of 7,500' and enjoy vistas of the magnificent Big Hole Basin. Or head west toward the Montana-Idaho border on the **Gibbonsville Road**, which goes into Idaho's Salmon River country and continues all the way to Salmon, Idaho. The **Placer Creek Trail** crosses the Continental Divide near Lost Trail Pass and drops into the Bitterroot Valley, providing lots of open meadows and rolling terrain along the way.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service in Jackson 15 miles south. Food and lodging in Wisdom and Jackson.

**Events:** Fun runs in February.

**Nearby Attractions:** Polaris-Wise River National Snowmobile Trail; Maverick Mountain and Lost Trail Powder Mountain ski areas; Big Hole National Battlefield; ski touring; hot springs resorts.

**Location:** Junction of Montana 43 and Route 278, west of I-15, in extreme southwest Montana. Nearest airport is Butte.

**Maps & Information:** **Wisdom Ranger District**, Beaverhead National Forest, Box 238, Wisdom, MT 59761, 406-689-3243.

<b>Season:</b>	December through April.
<b>Elevation:</b>	Wisdom, 6,058'; trails to 7,500'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>	Dry powder through most of the season, with snow setting up for faster sledding in March.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>	1' at lower elevations; 6' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>	In the mid-teens. Wisdom is generally colder than the surrounding mountains.

Located at the north end of the popular Wise River-Polaris National Snowmobile Trail in southwestern Montana, Wise River is a small but significant outpost for year-round outdoor recreation. In June, news of the salmonfly hatch on the lower Big Hole River draws anglers from throughout Montana and the nation. In October, Wise River serves as a base camp for sportsmen who hunt deer and elk in the

rugged peaks of the Pioneers and nearby mountain ranges. In December, snow transforms these mountains and river valleys into a giant snowmobile park. Choose one of the many trails within the 100-mile-long Wise River-Polaris trail system, rent a cabin at the end of a groomed snowmobile trail, or ride your sled to nearby Maverick Mountain for an afternoon of downhill skiing. Or choose from several ice-paved alpine lakes where the fishing heats up when the temperature drops. Snowmobiles are the preferred means of transportation in this part of the country and sledding is permitted right in the town of Wise River.

**Trails:** Several loops, meadows and side trails are accessed from the **Wise River-Polaris Trail** (see Dillon), including **Quartz Hill**, with 10 miles of groomed trails and another 10 miles of ungroomed trails that lead to a massive, high plateau; **Anderson Meadows**, which leads to backcountry lakes and a rental cabin on 20 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails; **Pattengail**, which follows Pattengail Creek eight miles to Pattengail Falls; **Lacy Creek**, with 10 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails to five high mountain lakes; and **Bryant Creek** and the **Highline Trail** to more backcountry lakes and another rental cabin. The Wise River trails also connect with the **Wisdom** trail system to the west (see Wisdom).

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service in Wise River. Fuel, food and lodging in Wise River and on the Wise River-Polaris trail. Guided tours may be arranged through the Wise River Jackpine Savages Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Fun runs in January, February; hill climbs in March.

**Nearby Attractions:** Wise River-Polaris National Snowmobile Trail; Maverick Mountain ski area; ski touring and ice fishing.

**Location:** Montana 43, 12 miles west of I-15 between Butte and Dillon. Nearest airport is Butte.

**Maps & Information:** **Wise River Ranger District**, Beaverhead National Forest, Box 100, Wise River, MT 59762, 406-832-3178; **Wise River Jackpine Savages**, Wise River Club, Wise River, MT 59762, 406-832-3258.

<b>Season:</b>	December through mid-April.
<b>Elevation:</b>	Wise River, 5,500'; trails to 8,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>	Improve as season progresses with best sledding beginning in late January.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>	2' at lower elevations; 8' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>	0 to 32 degrees.



## GOLD WEST COUNTRY LODGING

**BEST WESTERN BUTTE PLAZA INN**, 2900 Harrison Ave., Butte 59701, 406-494-3500, 800-543-5814, FAX 494-7611. Located 45 miles from Wisdom-Beaverhead snowmobile trail, 134 new rooms, cozy hot water heat with phone and cable TV (movies), restaurant/entertainment lounge, meeting room to 100, guest laundry, free European/continental breakfast. Plenty of parking available. Discounted rates available. VI MC AX DC DSC \$\$

**BEST WESTERN COPPER KING INN**, 4655 Harrison Ave., Butte 59701, 406-494-6666, 800-332-8600, FAX 494-3274. Easy access to nearby Deerlodge National Forest trails. Indoor recreation and relaxation include swimming, jacuzzi, sauna, three indoor tennis courts, weight room, fine dining, coffee shop and the "Jox" Sports & Spirits Bar. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**ELKHORN HOT SPRINGS**, Box 514, Polaris 59746, 406-834-3434, 800-722-8978 (outside MT). Located near the Beaverhead National Forest trails and the Wise River-Polaris trail system. Pool, sauna, restaurant, unlimited snowmobile trails, skiing. Stay in the rustic hotel or cabins which have been newly remodeled. VI MC \$\$

**FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS RESORT**, 1500 Fairmont Rd., Gregson (9 miles south of Anaconda) 59711, 406-797-3241, 800-332-3272 (in MT), 800-443-2381 (outside MT), FAX 797-3337. Warm up after a day of snow fun in our 100-degree hot springs water. Our olympic-size pools are open 24 hours a day to registered guests. Enjoy our 350' enclosed waterslide which is open year-round. Minutes away from Georgetown Lake and the Pintler Wilderness area. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**GRASSHOPPER INN**, Box 504, Polaris 59746, 406-834-3456. Sled from our lodge on groomed and marked backcountry trails of the spectacular Polaris-Wise River Scenic Byway. Fine dining, lodging, lounge and game room. Ski hill and hot springs nearby. Sledding hill for kids. Snowmobile rentals and gasoline. VI MC \$

**KINGS CARRIAGE INN**, 910 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena 59601, 406-442-6080, 800-521-2743 (in MT), FAX 449-4131. Located 15 miles south of York and Refrigerator Canyon. King or queen size beds, saunas, steam baths, meeting rooms. 24-hour 4 B's restaurant and Casino Jack's Saloon on the premises. 24-hour front desk service. Parking for trailers. Group rates available with advanced reservations. VI MC AX DC DSC \$\$

**RAINBOW VALLEY MOTEL**, Hwy 287 S. Box 26, Ennis 59729, 406-682-4264, 800-452-8254. 18 units, one mile south of Ennis on Hwy 287. 15 miles to Virginia City. Back from highway, log cabin decor, winter plug-ins, adjacent to Madison River. 8 refrigerators, cable TV, phones, kitchens available \$10-15 extra. Reservation deposit required. Free coffee. Open year-round. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$

**RUSH'S LAKEVIEW GUEST RANCH**, Monida Star Rt., Lima 59739, 406-276-3300. Located in the heart of great sledding from West Yellowstone, Henry's Lake and Island Park. Featuring an indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi and dormitory-style lodging for up to 50 people. Offering all-inclusive snowmobiling packages. Personal checks welcome. Ski hill and private chalet. \$\$

**SEVEN GABLES RESORT**, Georgetown Lake, Anaconda 59711, 406-563-5052. Located at the turn off to Discovery Basin ski area. 200 miles of groomed trails. Sled right to your door. Kitchenettes, satellite TV, phones in room. Restaurant, lounge, grocery store. VI MC AX \$

**SUNDANCE LODGE MONTANA**, Montana 43, Wise River 59762, 406-689-3611. Located within 50 miles of five major trail systems and surrounded by the Beaverhead National Forest. Dining room, lounge, spa and cross-country skiing. VI MC \$\$

**THREE BEARS MOTEL**, Hwy 200, Box 789, Lincoln 59639, 406-362-4355. Sled from your motel door to over 250 miles of great snowmobile trails. Plenty of parking, close to cafes and stores. Kitchenettes available. VI MC \$.

**TOWNHOUSE INNS**, 800-442-4667. Two locations in Gold West Country to serve you— Butte and Dillon. Our convenient locations feature the amenities you need, including ample trailer parking and easy interstate access at a price that won't keep you off the trails. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$





## GOLD WEST COUNTRY SERVICES

**GRANITE SPORTLAND, INC.**, 728 W. Broadway, Box 728, Philipsburg 59858, 406-859-3753. 12 miles from Georgetown Lake and 18 miles from Skalkaho Pass. Serving the snowmobiler since 1967. Yamaha and Arctic Cat sales, extensive parts and accessories in stock, clothing, complete service department serving the enthusiast to the diehard. Rentals possible with advance notice. VI MC DSC

**MADISON VALLEY SNOWMOBILE RENTAL AND REPAIR**, 66 Varney Rd., Ennis, 59729, 406-682-7808. Centrally located between Virginia City, Meadow Creeks and the West Fork. Rentals of new-model Polaris snowmobiles and trailers; service of sleds. Lodging package in Virginia City available with rentals. Ride the 115-mile trail on sleds from Virginia City to West Yellowstone.

**REDLINE SPORTS**, 2050 Harrison Ave., Butte 59701, 406-782-9129, 800-233-3884 (in MT), FAX 723-7928. Located near Wise River, Anaconda and Deer Lodge trail systems. Authorized dealer for Polaris and Ski-Doo, sales, parts and service. High altitude specialists. We service all brands. VI MC AX DSC

### Room Rates

Room rates are based on double occupancy for the 1992-93 winter season and are subject to change.

\$ Under \$40  
\$\$ Between \$40 and \$60  
\$\$\$ Over \$60

### Credit Cards

VI Visa  
MC Master Card  
AX American Express  
DC Diners Club  
CB Carte Blanche  
DSC Discover

## A FEW TIPS...

The following tips will enhance your enjoyment of a Montana snowmobile vacation.

### MAPS

A good map is essential when you're traveling in a new area. Besides, it's fun to chart your progress with a map and discover landmarks you might otherwise miss. Trail maps of many of the areas featured in this guide can be obtained from the ranger district, snowmobile club or chamber of commerce listed at the end of each area. National Forest recreation visitor maps are available for a fee at Forest Service ranger stations and regional offices. Topographic maps and other specialized maps are often available at sporting goods stores in the area you are visiting. Topographic maps can also be ordered from the Publications Office, Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology, Main Hall, Montana Tech, Butte, MT 59701, 406-496-4167.

### FOREST SERVICE CABIN RENTALS

For those who seek the solitude of a true backcountry experience, the Forest Service has a few rustic cabins and lookouts for rent on a first-come, first-served basis. Cabins are furnished with the bare basics (table, chairs, wood stove and bunks). Bedding is not furnished. Cooking utensils, electricity and piped-in water are generally not available. Expect to use outdoor privies. Forest Service personnel at the ranger district in which the cabin is located will be able to tell you what you need to bring.

For a "Recreational Cabin & Lookout Directory" write or call:  
Northern Region,  
USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 7669,  
Missoula, MT 59807, 406-329-3511.



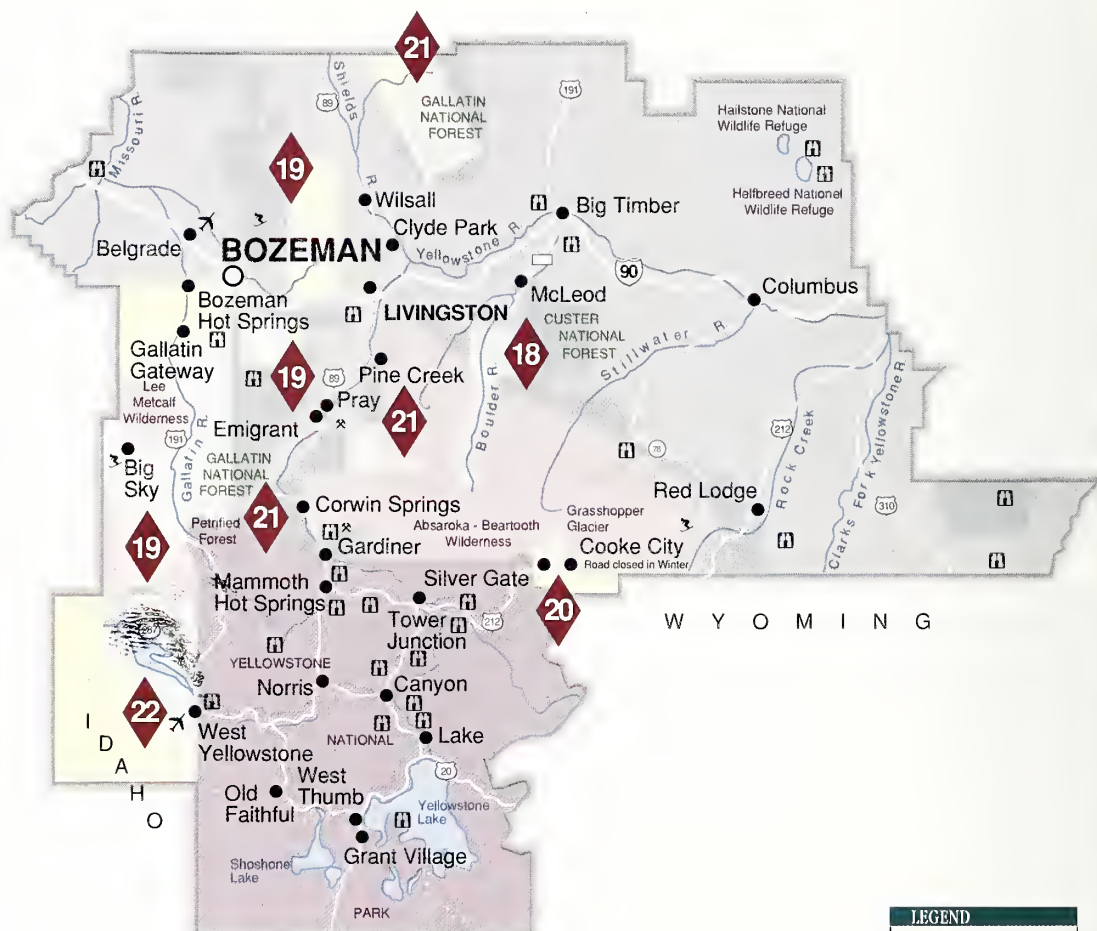




Buffalo Craig & Liz Larcom

# Yellowstone Country

Winter transforms Yellowstone National Park into a dazzling white playground. 600 miles of connecting, groomed trails and 10 million acres of national forest lands for off-trail exploring, make the Yellowstone Park-West Yellowstone area one of the nation's most popular snowmobile destinations. With its downhill and Nordic ski resorts, Yellowstone Country is a great destination for all who love winter. Snow comes early to its legendary peaks and ranges—the Bridgers and Beartooths, Lone Mountain and the Spanish Peaks—making it a favorite training ground for Olympic athletes. And it stays late, drawing T-shirt-and-shorts-clad skiers and snowboarders to Big Sky, Bridger Bowl and Red Lodge Mountain to get a jump on their summer tans. There are fun Western towns, like Red Lodge, Cooke City, Big Timber and Livingston and the lively university town of Bozeman, bursting with pride over its newly expanded Museum of the Rockies and digital planetarium. Where better to contemplate the stars than on top of the Rockies?



**LEGEND**

- Snowmobile Area
- Cities
- Towns
- National Forests
- Wilderness Areas
- National Parks
- Indian Reservations
- Continental Divide
- Lakes and Waterways
- Wildlife Viewing Site
- Interstate Marker
- U.S. Numbered Marker
- State Route Marker
- Major Airports
- Ghost Town
- Downhill Ski Area

0 10 20 30 40 50  
Miles



Glide along a river, through a canyon to the old mining town of Independence and over 25 miles of groomed trail south of Big Timber in the scenic Boulder River Valley. A favorite of anglers and hikers in the summer, this valley is best enjoyed by snowmobilers when it fills up with snow. Surrounded on three sides by designated wilderness, the Boulder Canyon Trail follows a beautiful roaded



In the shadow of a snow ghost Wayne Scherr

corridor that divides the towering peaks of the Absaroka and Beartooth ranges. If you prefer your views from a distance, try the popular East Boulder-Dry Fork Trail to the north. Enjoy the best of both worlds in the friendly, Western town of Big Timber, on I-90, where the snowclad Crazies dominate the view to the west and the plains begin their relentless march eastward through the Yellowstone River Valley. This is a land of cowboys and cattle ranches, classic dude ranches and some of the best year-round recreation in Montana.

**Trails:** Two trails provide plenty of variety in the Gallatin National Forest south of Big Timber. The 25-mile **Boulder Canyon Trail** takes snowmobilers to bowls, meadows and the abandoned mining town of Independence. The upper seven miles are moderate to difficult. Shorter and easier is the **East Boulder-Dry Fork Trail** with extensive play areas along its seven-mile length.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service, food and lodging are available in Big Timber.

**Nearby Attractions:** Yellowstone National Park, 90 miles southwest via Livingston; Bridger Bowl ski area, 60 miles west on I-90; Billings, Montana's largest city, 80 miles east on I-90.

**Location:** I-90 between Bozeman and Billings in south-central Montana. Nearest airport is Bozeman, 60 miles west.

**Maps & Information:** Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 196, Big Timber, MT 59011, 406-932-5155; Sweet Grass County Recreation Association, Big Timber, MT 59011, 406-932-5319.

#### Season:

Mid-December through mid-April.

#### Elevation:

Big Timber, 4,072'; trails to 9,000'.

#### Snow Conditions:

Powder snow early in the season; hardpack from early February until the end of the season.

#### Snow Depth:

2' at lower elevation; 8' in mountains.

#### Average Daytime Temp:

High-20s to low-30s.

Bozeman is perfectly located for the winter sports lover. Close to unlimited snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park and within minutes of some of Montana's finest downhill and cross-country skiing, Bozeman is a destination to seriously consider. The Park lies just 90 miles south through the scenic Gallatin River Canyon, an easy drive on US Highway 191. You can sled most of the way on the popular Big Sky Snowmobile Trail. Midway via US Highway 191 is Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, with its many fine shops and restaurants, and Lone Mountain Ranch, a world-class Nordic resort, plus mile after mile of breathtaking alpine scenery. There's more of that north of Bozeman on a series of connecting trails that combine mountain vistas and alpine lakes with lots of big powder play areas. Bridger Bowl ski area, home of the "cold smoke," and Bohart Ranch ski touring area share the neighborhood.

Whether it's the annual Christmas Stroll or Winter Fair, the Museum of the Rockies and the new digital planetarium, college basketball, great restaurants or one-of-a-kind shops, Bozeman will call you back again and again.

**Trails:** There are 200 miles of groomed trails in the Bozeman area, plus many additional miles of ungroomed but well-marked trails. Included in the system is the popular 120-mile **Big Sky Snowmobile Trail** between Bozeman and West Yellowstone. Portions are challenging, but five access routes make shorter loops for easier rides. **Buck Creek Ridge**, off US 191 south of Big Sky, provides miles of excellent play area. North of town in the Bridger Range are the **Brackett-Fairy Lake** and **Olsen Creek-Bangtail Ridge** trails, providing 20 miles of groomed trails and many more ungroomed miles, big play areas and spectacular alpine scenery.

**Services:** A full range of services is available in Bozeman and the Gallatin Canyon. Lodging and food range from modest to elegant. All makes of snowmobiles are sold and serviced. Rentals are available in Bozeman and the Gallatin Canyon at Big Sky. Guided tours can be arranged through rental operators or the Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association.

**Events:** Christmas Stroll, Bozeman, early December; Winter Fair, Bozeman, late January; Big Sky Cross-Country Race (Bozeman to West Yellowstone on the Big Sky Snowmobile Trail), late February or early March; ice drag races, mid-January and early March; regular outings with the Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association include fun runs, rallies and social events.

**Nearby Attractions:** Bridger Bowl ski area; Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort; Museum of the Rockies; Yellowstone National Park.

**Location:** Southwest Montana on I-90 between Billings and Butte. Fly into Bozeman. Drive I-90 east-west or US 191/287 north-south. Daily bus service between Bozeman and West Yellowstone.

**Maps & Information:** Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, 601 Nikles, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-587-6920; Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association, Box 3164, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-586-6820; Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce, Box B, 1205 E. Main St., Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-586-5421.

#### Season:

Late November through April.

#### Elevation:

Bozeman, 4,755'; trails to 9,500'.

#### Snow Conditions:

Powder snow lasts through February; hardpack until the end of the season.

#### Snow Depth:

2' at lower elevation; 15' in mountains.

#### Average Daytime Temp:

5 to 40 degrees.



The alpine village of Cooke City/Silver Gate describes itself as a friendly community of "80 people, dogs, moose and an occasional bison." Gateway to Yellowstone National Park and the spectacular Beartooth high country, Cooke City/Silver Gate enjoys perhaps the longest winter sports season in Montana. Snowmobilers and skiers start arriving around Thanksgiving and spring snow conditions can last into June. The makers of both Yamaha and Arctic Cat snowmobiles have chosen the area as a test site and promotional film location for their machines.

Sixty miles of groomed trails in the Gallatin National Forest start at the edge of town and take snowmobilers and skiers to the top of the Rockies. Along the way are rolling hills, switchbacks, open meadows and heavenly peaks. If that's not enough, trailer your machine 51 miles to Yellowstone National Park's North Entrance at Mammoth and explore the Park's 400-mile trail system. Most snowmobilers are happy to stay in Cooke City/Silver Gate, where merchants, dealers and townspeople go out of their way to meet sledders' needs.

**Trails:** Popular connecting trails are **Daisy Pass Road, Lulu Pass Road, Round Lake** and **Henderson Mountain**. Besides spectacular alpine scenery, there are abandoned mining camps, ice fishing lakes and open play areas. Portions of some of these trails are ungroomed and some pass through known avalanche areas. An easier, three-mile trail follows US 212 west from Cooke City to Silver Gate at Yellowstone's Northeast Entrance. The **Cooke City** trail system connects with 50 miles of groomed trails in Wyoming.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales, service and rentals, lodging and food are available in Cooke City. Shuttle service between Cooke City and Mammoth is available for snowmobilers. Guided tours may be arranged through the Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club.

**Events:** Rocky Mountain Cross-Country Racing Circuit Finale, mid-March.

**Nearby Attractions:** Yellowstone National Park; Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

**Location:** Extreme south-central Montana on US 212. Nearest airport is Bozeman, 140 miles northwest on I-90, US 89 and Mammoth-Cooke City highway. Car access is through northern Yellowstone National Park. US 212, east of Cooke City, is closed in winter.

**Maps & Information:** Gardiner Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Box 5, Gardiner, MT 59030, 406-848-7375; Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190, 307-344-7381, ext. 2206; Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club, Box 39, Silver Gate, MT 59081.



Moose Tom J. Ulrich

Two of Montana's most spectacular mountain ranges—the Absarokas and the Crazies—provide a majestic setting for the Yellowstone River community of Livingston. In summer and fall, they draw a devoted fellowship of anglers and hikers who travel their peaks and river valleys. Winter recreationists are equally drawn to their forested canyons and top-of-the-world views. North of Livingston

are the Crazies—an island of rugged peaks with commanding views of the Rockies to the west and the plains to the east. South of Livingston are the Absarokas, which form the western wall of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the northern border of Yellowstone National Park. In between is the mighty, free-flowing Yellowstone River and the town of Livingston. Located at the junction of I-90 and US 89, Livingston is an easy drive from Bozeman or Billings and just one hour north of Yellowstone National Park.

**Trails:** More than 84 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the Gallatin National Forest are within easy reach. In the Crazy Mountains to the north, choose from the 20-mile **Shields**

**Loop** (with Forest Service cabin rental nearby) the 15-mile **Cottonwood/Trespass Trail** or the **Ibex Cabin Trail**, which leads to a Forest Service cabin that can be rented for extended exploration of nearby play areas and side trails. In the Absarokas to the south is the **Mill Creek** area, a popular family spot with 20 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, several marked ski trails and a great sledding hill for kids. The **Rock Creek South** area has easy trails for families and more difficult paths for experienced sledders with 14 miles of groomed and 60 miles of ungroomed, well-marked trails.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service, plus a full range of food and lodging, are available in Livingston. Rentals are available in Gardiner and at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park, about an hour south of Livingston on US 89. Guided tours may be arranged through the Big Sky Snowriders Snowmobile Club.

**Nearby Attractions:** Depot Center Museum, and Lone Wolf Wildlife Museum, Livingston; Bridger Bowl ski area and Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman; Yellowstone National Park.

**Location:** Junction of I-90 and US 89 in southwest Montana. Nearest airport is Bozeman, about 30 minutes west on I-90.

**Maps & Information:** Livingston Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Route 62, Box 3197, Livingston, MT 59047, 406-222-1892; Big Sky Snowriders, 318 South 5th St., Livingston, MT 59047, 406-222-1863 or 222-2676; Livingston Chamber of Commerce, 212 W. Park St., Livingston, MT 59047, 406-222-0850.

<b>Season:</b>
Thanksgiving through mid-May.
<b>Elevation:</b>
Cooke City, 7,600'; trails to 10,000'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Deep powder snow until March when snowpack starts settling.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
5' at lower elevations; 14' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
18 to 25 degrees.

<b>Season:</b>
Mid-December through April.
<b>Elevation:</b>
Livingston, 4,489'; trails to 7,800'.
<b>Snow Conditions:</b>
Powder snow early in the season, turning to hardpack; best sledding is mid-January to early March.
<b>Snow Depth:</b>
5' at lower elevations; 10' in mountains.
<b>Average Daytime Temp:</b>
Mid-20s.



At the West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park, West Yellowstone tops every snowmobiler's dream list of places to go. It calls itself the "Snowmobile Capital of the World," and that's a slogan you can trust. The trail system begins right in town, where snowmobilers share city streets with motorists. Then choose from 200 miles of groomed trails inside the Park or 400 miles outside. There are snowcoach and ski tours of Yellowstone, unlimited backcountry runs for snowmobilers and skiers in the surrounding Gallatin and Targhee national forests, world-class Nordic trails right in town, and downhill skiing and snowboarding at nearby Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort. With so much to do, West Yellowstone keeps winter visitors coming back year after year. Lodging facilities, restaurants, nightlife, festivals, tour guides, dealers and rental operators make West Yellowstone a perfect destination for snowmobilers, skiers and sightseers.

The community of Gardiner sits just outside Yellowstone's North Entrance. Five miles "up the hill" from Gardiner is Mammoth, where a variety of Yellowstone trails begin. Although it's a little longer than the trail from West Yellowstone, a trip from Mammoth to Old Faithful is just as scenic.

**Trails:** All Yellowstone National Park roads except the one from Mammoth to Cooke City and Canyon Junction to Tower Junction are open to snowmobiles. Ride from West Yellowstone along the Madison River or from Mammoth along the Yellowstone to the **Grand Loop**, which takes you to Old Faithful, Yellowstone Lake, Norris Geyser Basin and many other of the park's favorite attractions. Popular national forest trails are the **Two Top National Recreation Snowmobile Trail**, providing panoramic views of three states and the magnificent Grand Tetons, Lionhead and South Plateau.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales, service and rentals, plus a full range of lodging and food services are available in West Yellowstone and Gardiner. Guided tours and packages are also available. Inside the park, lodging, food and fuel are available at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Mammoth Hot Springs. Fuel is available at Canyon. Light snacks and warming huts are available throughout the Park.

**Events:** West Yellowstone—U.S. Nordic Ski Team's Cross-Country Fall Camp, November; Christmas Festival, second weekend in December; World Snowmobile Expo, with snowmobile events, mid-March; Yellowstone Rendezvous-Great American Ski Chase, early March.

**Nearby Attractions:** Yellowstone National Park; Rendezvous ski trails; Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort.

**Location:** West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park at junction of US 191/287 and US 20. Gardiner is on US 89 north of Yellowstone. Nearest airport is Bozeman, 90 miles north on US 191. Daily bus service from Bozeman and Idaho Falls.

**Maps & Information:** West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 458, West Yellowstone, MT 59758, 406-646-7701; Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 520, West Yellowstone, MT 59758, 406-646-7369; Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, 307-344-7381, ext. 2206.

**Season:**

Thanksgiving through April. Yellowstone National Park: Mid-December through mid-March. (Dates tentative based on snow conditions)

**Elevation:**

West Yellowstone, 6,666'; trails to 10,000'.

**Snow Conditions:**

Powder early; hardpack from early February until the end of the season.

**Snow Depth:**

5' at lower elevations; 14' in mountains.

**Average Daytime Temp:**

15 to 25 degrees.



Yellowstone National Park Ken Takata



## YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY LODGING

**ALPINE MOTEL**, Box 1030, Cooke City 59020, 406-838-2262. Centrally located with 17 rooms, reasonable rates and HBO. VI MC DC CB DSC \$\$

**AMBASSADOR QUALITY INN**, 315 Yellowstone Ave., Box 459, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7365, 800-221-1151 (outside MT), FAX 646-9490. Just 3 1/2 blocks from the entrance to Yellowstone National Park and great snowmobiling. Features kitchenettes, whirlpool and Showtime. Enjoy Yellowstone from our new, ultra comfortable snowcoaches. Complete snowmobile and snowcoach packages. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$\$

**BEST WESTERN BUCK'S T-4 LODGE**, US Hwy 191, Box 160279, Big Sky 59716, 406-995-4111, 800-822-4484 (outside MT), FAX 995-2191. With groomed trails allowing easy access to several trailheads in the Gallatin National Forest, snowmobiling doesn't get any better! Located two miles north of the Buck Creek Ridge trailhead at the Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, Buck's T-4 Lodge and Canyon Snowmobile Rental offer you the best in a snowmobile vacation. Call or write for your free color brochure. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**BEST WESTERN GRANTREE INN**, 1325 N. 7th, Bozeman 59715, 406-587-5261, 800-624-5865, FAX 587-9437. Located near several trails in the Bozeman area and featuring restaurant, cocktail lounge, casino, sauna, spacious trailer parking. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$



**BIG SKY CHALET RENTALS**, Box 1032, Bozeman 59715, 406-587-4107, 800-845-4428, FAX 586-0995. Snowmobile and ski in spectacular Big Sky and Yellowstone. Economical studios to deluxe five bedroom condominiums and chalets. All units are equipped with full kitchens, fireplaces, phones and cable TV. Amenities include hot tubs, heated swimming pools, saunas and washer/dryers. VI MC \$\$\$

**BOBCAT LODGE**, 2307 W. Main, Bozeman 59715, 406-587-5241. Located near the Bozeman-Big Sky trail systems. Budget motel with all the extras—heated indoor pool, sauna, color TV, kitchenettes, laundry facilities, restaurant adjacent. Near MSU and across from University Mall. VI MC AX DSC \$\$

**BOZEMAN HOLIDAY INN**, 5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman 59715, 406-587-4561, 800-366-5101, FAX 587-4413. Near several trails in the Bozeman area. Features restaurant, lounge, indoor pool, jacuzzi, exercise and recreation area, meeting and banquet facilities, airport shuttle, 178 rooms including king jacuzzi rooms, ample parking. Hotel is conveniently located off I-90. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**BRANDIN' IRON MOTEL AND RV PARK**, 201 Canyon, Box 669, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-9411, 800-231-5991, FAX 646-9608. Indoor hot tubs, individual refrigerators in each room, electric plug-ins and ample off-street parking, some kitchens. Three Star AAA and member of IMA. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**CITY CENTER MOTEL**, 214 Madison Ave., Box 580, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7337, 800-742-0665, FAX 646-7337. Located in center of town. Total renovation in 1992. Snowmobile rentals, gift shop, meeting room with deluxe kitchen, hot tub and big screen TV. Adjacent to two restaurants and lounge. Health club. Just three blocks from Park gate. AAA rated. Featuring Polarix snowmobiles. VI MC DSC \$\$

**CLIFF LAKE LODGE**, Box 573, Cameron 59720, 406-682-4982. Located 15 miles north of Valley View Island Park, marked trail system connects with Elk Lake Resort and Red Rock Pass. Comfortable lodge rooms and modern cozy cabins, hot tub, hearty home cooked meals. Packages and group rates available. Make tracks in a new location! VI MC \$\$ & \$\$\$

**GOLDEN EAGLE LODGE/CONDO RENTALS**, Box 160008, Big Sky 59716, 406-995-4800, 800-548-4488, FAX 995-2447. Located at Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, surrounded by Gallatin National Forest trails. Budget to deluxe, motel, condos and chalets. Featuring pool and spa facilities, restaurant and cocktail lounge. VI MC DSC \$\$

**GREYSTONE INN BED & BREAKFAST**, 122 S. Yellowstone St., Livingston 59047, 406-222-8319. Located 50 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, 30 minutes from Bridger Bowl ski resort. Numerous groomed local trails. Beautiful historic home. Hearty country breakfast. Off street parking available. Personal checks, traveler's cheques or cash. \$\$

**HIGH COUNTRY MOTEL**, Box 1146, Cooke City 59020, 406-838-2272. Sled right from your door. Kitchenettes available. Restaurant, rentals and service nearby. VI MC AX DC DSC \$

**PARADISE INN**, I-90 Exit 333 and US Hwy 89, Box 684, Livingston 59047, 406-222-2993, 800-437-6291. Located just minutes from Gallatin National Forest and 56 miles from Yellowstone National Park, featuring queen and king beds, jacuzzi room, indoor pool, restaurant, lounge and casino. All ground floor, color cable TV. VI MC AX \$\$



## YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY SERVICES

**PINE SHADOWS MOTEL**, US Hwy 20 and Hayden, Box 721, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7541, 800-624-5291. Featuring log cabins, kitchenettes, hot tub, facilities for disabled persons, snowmobile rentals and packages, ample parking for trailers and garage space for repairing your own sleds. VI MC AX \$\$

**PONY EXPRESS MOTEL**, 4 Firehole, Box 908, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7644, 800-323-9708. 16-unit motel located two blocks north of Park entrance gate. Good parking provided for vehicles and trailers; park your snowmobiles in front of your rooms. We feature one bedroom, two bedroom and a three bedroom unit. Snowmobile from your door to any of the trails. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$

**STAGE COACH INN**, 209 Madison Ave., Box 160, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7381, 800-842-2882, FAX 646-9575. The best in the West! Historic Western inn. Award-winning lobby with fireplace. Attractive lodging with unique decor. Fine family dining. Lively lounge. Licensed poker. Hot tubs and sauna. Complete snowmobile packages with choice of any current major model of snowmobile. Group rates. VI MC AX DC DSC \$\$\$

**SUPER 8 MOTEL OF COLUMBUS**, 602 E. 8th Ave. N, Box 88, Columbus 59019, 406-322-4101, 800-442-4667. Our motel is the perfect place to relax after a day on the trails. We feature a fitness center, spa and sauna. The 24-hour restaurant, lounge and casino are located in the Town Pump Travel Plaza. Call for more details. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$

**THE CORRAL BAR, CAFE, MOTEL**, 42895 Gallatin Rd., Gallatin Gateway 59730, 406-995-4249. Located on US Hwy 191, five miles south of the Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort entrance in the heart of Gallatin Canyon, minutes from skiing, snowmobiling, Yellowstone National Park. A true Montana roadhouse. Excellent dining. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Great atmosphere, Western hospitality. Direct access to 40 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. VI MC DSC \$

**THREE BEAR LODGE AND RESTAURANT**, 217 Yellowstone Ave., Box 519, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7353, 800-221-1151, FAX 646-9490. Superb lodging and dining facilities designed to comfort any winter sports enthusiast. We cater to snowmobilers, snowcoach passengers and cross-country skiers. Our snowmobile rental fleet consists of 100 new snowmobiles and two snowcoaches. Located two blocks from Yellowstone National Park. VI MC DSC \$\$\$

**WADE LAKE RESORT**, Box 107, Cameron 59720, 406-682-7560. Located 18 miles from the Yellowstone-Island Park trail system featuring five fully equipped housekeeping cabins on partially ice-free Wade Lake. Also located five miles from Standard Creek-West Fork groomed trails in the Beaverhead National Forest. Designated a Montana Wildlife Viewing Site, winter at Wade Lake offers one of the best times for wildlife viewing. \$\$

**YELLOWSTONE TOWNHOUSES**, 15 Madison Ave., Box 867, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-9331. Snowmobile from your front door into Yellowstone National Park or the more than 500 miles of groomed trails outside the park. All units contain fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces, color TV. All units located in town. VI MC DSC \$\$\$

### Room Rates

Room rates are based on double occupancy for the 1992-93 winter season and are subject to change.

\$ Under \$40  
 \$\$ Between \$40 and \$60  
 \$\$\$ Over \$60

### Credit Cards

VI Visa  
 MC Master Card  
 AX American Express  
 DC Diners Club  
 CB Carte Blanche  
 DSC Discover

**BUFFALO HORN OUTFITTERS**, 74333 Gallatin Rd., Box 460, Gallatin Gateway 59730, 406-763-4388. Headquartered at the beginning of the famous Big Sky trail between Bozeman and West Yellowstone. Providing experienced guides to help you enjoy the vast play areas and trails of the Gallatin and Yellowstone National Park. Packages available. VI MC

**BIG SKY CANYON SNOWMOBILE RENTAL**, 47200 Gallatin Rd., Box 160326, Big Sky 59716, 406-995-4450. Located in the scenic Gallatin Canyon, with easy access to Buck Ridge and Big Sky trailheads in the Gallatin National Forest. Majestic mountain views and untouched meadows with virgin snow await you! Snowmobile rentals, clothing and guide service available. Call or write for your free Forest Service trail map. VI MC DSC

**HI COUNTRY SNOWMOBILE RENTAL**, US Hwy 20 and Hayden, Box 721, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7541, 800-624-5291. Full-day rate \$69-\$105 full day. Clothing rentals, cargo sleds, guided tours and vacation packages. Located at the Pine Shadows Motel. VI MC AX

**POET MOTORCYCLES/SKI-DOO**, 1804 N. Rouse, Bozeman 59715, 406-586-7147, 800-443-1168, FAX 586-0095. New snowmobile rentals, sales and service. Full-day rate of \$50-\$80 is for a 24-hour period. Weekly rates available; trailer rentals. Located near the Bridger Mountain trail system and Bridger Bowl ski area. VI MC AX

**POWERPLAY MOTORSPORTS**, 8342 Huffine Lane, Bozeman 59715, 406-587-1473, FAX 587-6063. Located 3 1/2 miles west of Bozeman on US Hwy 191. Close proximity to over 200 miles of snowmobile trails in the Bridger range, Big Sky area and West Yellowstone. Authorized full service dealer for Arctic Cat snowmobiles and a wide variety of parts, clothing and accessories. VI MC DSC

**RENDEZVOUS SNOWMOBILE RENTALS INC.**, 429 Yellowstone Ave., Box 580, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-9353. Featuring Polaris snowmobiles, new machines every year, courtesy shuttle in town, heated handlebars, tall windshields, adult and kids clothing, group rates, skier discounts, lodging packages, 25 years in West Yellowstone. Just five blocks from Park gate. Best rates in the area. Call for free information package 800-426-7669. VI MC

**WESTGATE STATION**, 11 Yellowstone Ave., Box 367, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7781, 800-255-3417, FAX 646-7654. Arctic Cat and Polaris rentals. Clothing rental, group rates and guided tours available. Authorized Arctic Cat dealership. We service all brands. High-altitude specialist. Closest rental operation to Yellowstone National Park gate. Walk-ins welcome. VI MC AX DC DSC

**YELLOWSTONE ADVENTURES**, 131 Dunraven, Box 669, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-9411, 800-231-5991, FAX 646-9608. New larger location. Skidoo sales, service and rentals. Three blocks from park gate. Restaurants and motels close by. All brand new Skidoo models to choose from. \$60-\$99 full day. First tank gas furnished, clothing and packages available. VI MC AX DSC

**YELLOWSTONE ALPEN GUIDES CO.**, 555 Yellowstone Ave., Box 518, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-9591. At the West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park, offers heated, enclosed snowcoach tours to Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone on a daily basis. Also offers package tours that explore Yellowstone Park with overnight accommodations in the Old Faithful area. VI MC

**YELLOWSTONE ARCTIC-YAMAHA**, 208 Electric, Box 369, West Yellowstone 59758, 406-646-7365, 800-221-1151, FAX 646-9490. Snowmobile rentals \$76-\$106 full-day, \$55 half-day after noon (no reservations needed); group rates. Clothing rentals and guided tours available. Packages include lodging, meals, rentals, park and national forest fees. Full service Yamaha and Arctic Cat dealer with sales, service, parts and accessories. VI MC AX DC CB DSC





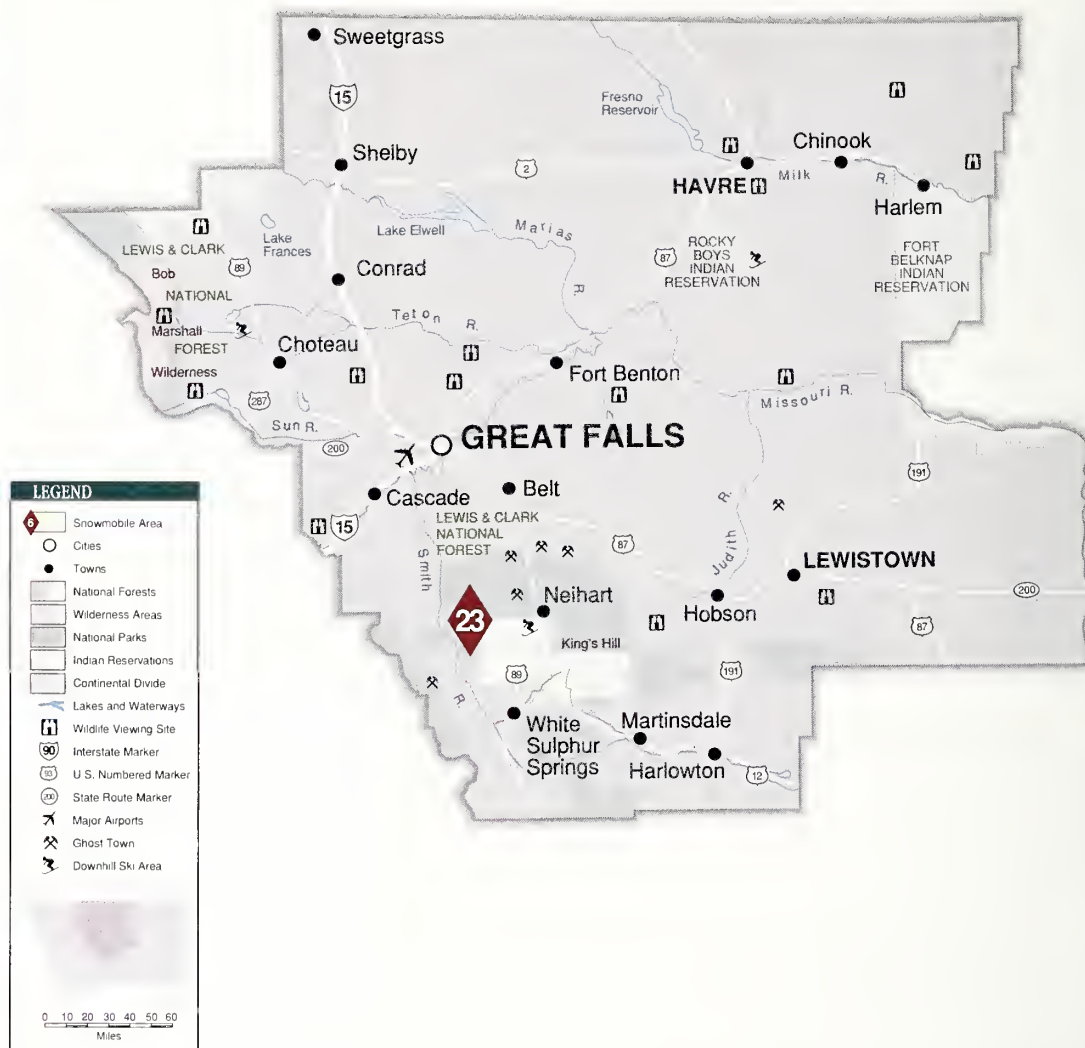
Snowshoe hare Tom J. Ulrich

Winter's low sun washes subtle shades of purple and pink across a canvas of sky before it sets over Russell Country. This is the land that inspired Montana artist Charlie Russell and you'll see it in the sunsets and skylscapes, mountains and buttes, cowboys and cattle spreads of north-central Montana.

After exploring the trails, meadows and parks in the popular Kings Hill winter sports area, plan to spend some time in Great Falls where Russell's studio and many of his original works are preserved at the C.M. Russell complex. Better yet, schedule your winter visit for mid-March to coincide with Great Falls' fabulous C.M. Russell Auction of original Western art. For three days, Great Falls is Western art headquarters as collectors and admirers from throughout the nation gather to celebrate the artist's birthday with auctions and sales of juried works by top artists.

The snow just gets better as the season progresses. For a complete winter vacation, try the skiing at Showdown and Rocky Mountain Hi, Nordic skiing from the Little Belts to the Rocky Mountain Front, ice fishing on a dozen lakes and reservoirs and stream fishing on the upper Missouri River.

# Charlie Russell Country



## 23 KINGS HILL/LITTLE BELTS

With plenty of space, tons of powder and miles of separate trails for everyone, Kings Hill is one of Montana's most popular sports areas. Showdown ski area, Silver Crest cross-country ski area and the trailhead to more than 200 miles of groomed snowmobile trails are all within a mile of one another in the Little Belt Mountains south of Great Falls. Snowmobilers enjoy several connecting loop trails, parks, meadows and open areas in the Kings Hill area, on both sides of US Highway 89. There are accommodations, restaurants and bars that cater to snowmobilers in the Little Belts. Just one hour north is Great Falls, Montana's second-largest city, with plenty of nightlife. One hour east is the friendly, central Montana community of Lewistown. There's something for everyone in this area, so load the sleds, pack the skis and bring the whole family out to Charlie Russell Country.

**Trails:** Popular loop trails are **Divide Road**, **Kings Hill** and **Big Loop**, all with big powder play areas and unforgettable vistas that stretch all the way to the peaks of Yellowstone National Park. Joining King's Hill from the east is the **Little Belt Trail**, which starts south of Utica, near cowboy artist Charlie Russell's first Montana home. The trail follows the South Fork of the Judith River into South Fork Canyon and then to large play and hill climbing areas on Russian Flats and Musselshell Hill.

**Services:** Snowmobile sales and service are available in Great Falls and Lewistown. There are no snowmobile rentals in the area. A full range of visitor services and entertainment is available in Great Falls. Fuel, food and lodging are also available in Lewistown and closer to Kings Hill, White Sulphur Springs and Neihart. Lunches are available at Showdown, which is accessible by snowmobile. Guided tours may be arranged through the Great Falls Snowmobile Club and the Little Belt Snowmobile Club. A parking area, large enough to accommodate RVs is located on US 89, with overflow parking in the area as well.



# Missouri River & Custer Countries

**Events:** Guided tours, fun runs and cookouts, Kings Hill, January, February, and March; PRCA Rodeo Finals, Great Falls, mid-January; C.M. Russell Auction of original Western art, Great Falls, third weekend in March.

**Nearby Attractions:** Showdown, Rocky Mountain Hi and Bear Paw ski areas, Silver Crest cross-country ski area; C.M. Russell Complex; Lewis & Clark Trail; Missouri River.

**Location:** US 89 between Great Falls and White Sulphur Springs in central Montana. Nearest airports are Great Falls, 65 miles north and Helena, 110 miles southwest on US 89 and 12.

**Maps & Information:** Pick up a copy of the current Kings Hill-Little Belt trail map at businesses near the trail. For more information contact: **Kings Hill Ranger District, Lewis & Clark National Forest**, 204 West Folsom, Box A, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, 406-547-3361; **Great Falls Snowmobile Club**, Box 6032, Great Falls, MT 59406; **Little Belt Snowmobile Club**, Box 355, Hobson, MT 59452 or 648 N.E. Washington, Lewistown, MT 59457.

## Season:

December through April.

## Elevation:

7,000' at parking lot; trails to 8,000'.

## Snow Conditions:

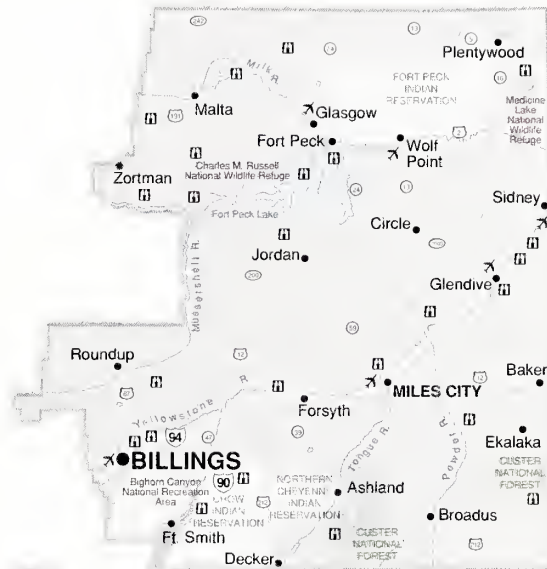
This area is famous for powder snow that lasts well into spring.

## Snow Depth:

2' at lower elevations; 6' in mountains.

## Average Daytime Temp:

High-teens to low-20s.



Great rivers and lakes, badlands and buttes, and unbelievably big skies are some of the attractions drawing winter visitors to eastern Montana. Lewis and Clark, Sitting Bull, General George Armstrong Custer and Calamity Jane were among the dazzling cast of characters who once scouted these high plains. Trace their steps at national historic sites like Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Fort Union Trading Post and the Missouri River. Base your exploration from friendly "Hi-Line" communities like Malta and Glasgow, busy interstate cities like Glendive, Miles City and Hardin, or Montana's largest city, Billings, with its great restaurants, theaters, shopping and nightlife.

Winter sports are determined by weather that differs dramatically from mountainous western Montana. Here, the season is short, generally mid-January through February. Eastern Montana's climate and plains terrain make for dry, drifting snow. These varying snow conditions and a shortage of public lands limit snowmobiling, but there are two areas that are especially popular with local snowmobilers. Just outside the cattlemen's town of Miles City, snowmobilers take to the frozen Tongue River starting at Spotted Eagle Recreation Area. This shallow river is normally covered by thick ice making it safe for snowmobiling, but it's always a good idea to check local conditions before heading out. About 70 miles northeast on I-94, winter visitors can enjoy snowmobiling or skiing through 4,600 acres of badlands at Makoshika State Park, on the outskirts of Glendive. Depending on conditions, snowmobiling is allowed both on and off the eight miles of roads through the park.

Well-stocked lakes and reservoirs make ice fishing a popular sport on a cold day in eastern Montana. South of US Highway 2, between Wolf Point and Glasgow, is Fort Peck Lake with 1,500 miles of shoreline for sportsmen and recreationists. Game fish include walleye, sauger, trout, perch and northern pike. The state's record walleye (14 pounds!) was caught at nearby Nelson Reservoir. South of Billings on the Crow Indian Reservation is beautiful Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. One of the nation's premier trout streams, the Bighorn River is open all year. The lower Yellowstone River is also open year-round.

## RUSSELL COUNTRY LODGING

**O'HAIRE MOTOR INN**, 17 7th St. S., Great Falls 59403, 406-454-2141, 800-332-9819, FAX 454-0211. Downtown Great Falls. Features an indoor heated pool, restaurant, lounge, indoor parking, airport shuttle. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$

**TOWNHOUSE INNS**, 800-442-4667. Three locations in Russell Country to serve you - Great Falls, Havre and Conrad. Our convenient locations feature the amenities you need at a price that won't keep you off the trails. VI MC AX DC CB DSC \$\$



Ice boating Neal & M.J. Mishler



# Snowmobile Safety

Winter recreationists are drawn to the mountains of Montana because of the deep, dry powder, spectacular vistas and solitude they know they will find. But any mountains in winter can be harsh and unforgiving. Mountain weather is unpredictable. Fast-moving storms can appear out of nowhere. Heavy snow or sustained wind can create avalanche danger. Overexposure to the cold can result in hypothermia—the number one killer of outdoor recreationists. The following information on snowmobile safety is offered in the hope that you will visit our trails, have a safe trip and great vacation and come back again. Once is not enough to enjoy all that Montana has to offer in winter.

## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a snowmobiler, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety. It is your responsibility to be knowledgeable and informed about the basic operation of your machine and to operate your machine in a way that is safe and courteous to others. You should always operate your machine at a safe speed and be prepared to stop within one-half of your visible distance. Drinking is as dangerous to snowmobilers as it is to motorists, their passengers and innocent victims. Always yield to slow-moving snowmobiles, pedestrians and skiers and avoid traveling on designated ski trails.

## HAZARDS & RISKS

Even when you are on groomed snowmobile trails, hazards exist. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Montana Snowmobile Association and local snowmobile clubs have installed signs and warnings to guide you. But it is impossible to keep recreationists informed on the status of millions of acres of forest and thousands of miles of trails. Snow conditions can change dramatically from day to day, even hour to hour. Be on the lookout for rocks, stumps and fallen trees on and off the trail. Other potential hazards include caves and overlooks, abandoned mining tunnels and shafts, decaying structures and equipment, contaminated water, changing weather and trail conditions, landslides and avalanches, exhaustion and hypothermia.

IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS TO THE SPORT OF SNOWMOBILING AND THE PRUDENT SNOWMOBILER SHOULD BE AWARE OF SUCH RISKS AND TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

## WINTER WEATHER

The snowmobile season generally extends from late November through March, with trail conditions improving as the season progresses. Temperatures can range from 50 degrees above zero to 50 below, but averages generally run from 15 to 25 degrees above zero, with mostly sunny skies. Storms can develop quickly and snowmobilers should be prepared for them:

- Check the forecast before you leave.
- Turn back if the weather looks bad.
- Let someone know where you're going and when you intend to return.
- Travel in a group of at least three people and two machines.
- Pack enough extra clothing, food and gear for a possible overnight.
- Be in good physical condition when you set out.

## WEATHER REPORTS:

National Weather Service, 406-449-5204.

## WINDCHILL

Wind can be a deadly enemy because of its cooling effect on already cold temperatures. This windchill chart illustrates the effect of wind and temperature on a dry, properly clothed person. If clothing is wet from perspiration or precipitation, the effect is even greater.

Wind Speed Cooling Power of Wind Expressed as "Equivalent Chill Temperature"

Wind Speed	Temperature(F)											
	40	30	20	10	5	0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-60	-60
Equivalent Chill Temperature												
0	35	25	15	5	0	-5	-15	-25	-35	-45	-55	-70
5	30	15	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-60	-70	-80	-95
10	25	10	-5	-20	-25	-30	-45	-60	-70	-85	-100	-110
15	20	5	-10	-25	-30	-35	-50	-65	-80	-95	-110	-120
20	15	0	-15	-30	-35	-45	-60	-75	-90	-105	-120	-135
25	10	0	-20	-30	-40	-50	-65	-80	-95	-110	-125	-140
30	10	-5	-20	-35	-40	-50	-65	-80	-100	-115	-130	-145
35	10	-5	-20	-35	-45	-55	-70	-85	-100	-115	-130	-150
40	10	-5	-20	-35	-45	-55	-70	-85	-100	-115	-130	-150
Danger				Increased Danger (Skin may freeze within 1 minute)				Great Danger (Skin may freeze within 30 seconds)				

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is a loss of body temperature that is caused by exposure to cold and aggravated by wet, wind and exhaustion. If steps are not taken to raise the victim's body temperature, it leads to mental and physical collapse. Watch for these symptoms:

- Uncontrollable fits of shivering.
- Vague, slow, slurred speech.
- Memory lapses, incoherence.
- Immobility, fumbling hands.
- Frequent stumbling.
- Drowsiness, exhaustion.

To avoid hypothermia, stay dry. Insulate your body against cold, wet weather by wearing wool and waterproof clothing, including a knit cap. Put it on before you start shivering. If your clothing isn't enough to keep you warm, then get out of the cold. If you can't get out, build a fire and make camp while you still have energy. Don't wait until you're exhausted.

To treat hypothermia, shelter the victim and remove all wet clothing. Get them into warm, dry clothes, a warm, dry sleeping bag and try to get warm liquids into their body. Keep the victim awake. If the victim becomes sick or unconscious, seek medical attention immediately.

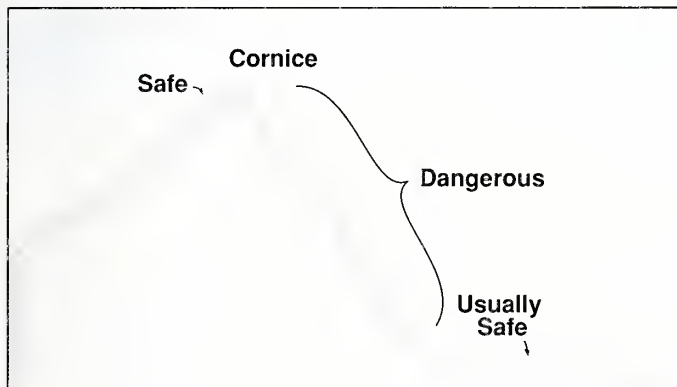
## AVALANCHE

Avalanche danger should not be taken lightly. A wall of moving, suffocating snow leaves few survivors in its wake. The best way to avoid an avalanche is to be knowledgeable of avalanche conditions and reroute your trip to avoid them. Avalanches occur when loose snow or a slab of snow starts moving down a slope. Avalanches are triggered by a variety of slope, snow and weather conditions; many times they are triggered by human impact. Slope conditions to watch out for are steep slopes or smooth, open slopes. Short slopes can be as dangerous as long ones. Leeward slopes are dangerous because wind-deposited snow adds depth and may create unstable slabs of snow.



Avoid avalanches by staying away from mountainous terrain after heavy snowfall or prolonged periods of high wind. Avoid crossing steep side hills or entering narrow, steeply sided canyons. The safest routes are on ridgetops and on the windward side, away from cornices. The next safest route is out in the valley, far from the bottom of a slope.

## AVALANCHE SURVIVAL



If you are caught in an avalanche:

- Call out so other members of your party can track your location.
- Discard all equipment and get away from your snowmobile.
- Make swimming motions and try to stay on top; work your way to the side of the avalanche.
- As you feel the avalanche slow, try to thrust your hand or any other part of your body above the surface.
- Before the snow settles, slip your arm in front of your face to clear an air space.
- Try not to panic; you need to conserve oxygen.

If you are a survivor you are a victim's best hope of survival: Mark the place where you last saw the victim and keep your eyes fixed on the moving mass of snow in which he is trapped.

- Search for the victim directly downslope from the last sighted area when the snow stops moving.
- Use a ski pole or stick to probe the snow.
- Stay with the victim unless help is only a few minutes away; after 30 minutes, the victim has only a 50 percent chance of survival.
- If the victim is found, treat for hypothermia, suffocation and shock.

**AVALANCHES MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME DURING THE WINTER. ADVICE ON AVALANCHE CONDITIONS IS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL FOREST SERVICE OFFICES.**

### AVALANCHE ADVISORY

**Northwest Montana**  
800-526-5329

**Southwest Montana**  
406-587-6981

**Cooke City**  
406-838-2341

**West Yellowstone**  
406-646-7912

**Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests**  
406-549-4488 or 800-281-1030

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### MONTANA TRAVEL INFORMATION:

Travel Montana has the information you need to plan a trip in any season—camping, lodging, attractions, recreational opportunities, snow skiing—it's all just a phone call away. 800-541-1447 (outside Montana) or 406-444-2654 (in Montana).

### FISHING & HUNTING:

Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, 406-444-2535.  
(Or see regional offices listed below.)

### NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC SITES & RECREATION AREAS:

National Park Service, Box 790,  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722, 406-846-2070.

### SNOWMOBILING:

Montana Snowmobile Association,  
P.O. Box 3202, Great Falls, MT 59403.

**Bureau of Land Management,**  
Garnet Resource Area, 3255 Ft. Missoula Road,  
Missoula, MT 59801, 406-329-3914

**USDA Forest Service, Northern Region,**  
Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807, 406-329-3511.

**Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks Headquarters,**  
1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, 406-444-4585.

### Regional Offices

#### Region 1

Kalispell, P.O. Box 67, 3445 Hwy 93 South,  
Kalispell, MT 59903, 406-752-5501.

#### Region 2

Missoula, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula,  
MT 59801, 406-542-5500.

#### Region 3

Bozeman, 1400 South 19th,  
Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-994-4042.

#### Region 4

Great Falls, 4600 Giant Springs Road,  
P.O. Box 6609, Great Falls, MT 59406, 406-454-3441.

#### Region 5

Billings, 1125 Lake Elmo Drive,  
Billings, MT 59105, 406-252-4654.

#### Region 6

Glasgow, Rural Route 1-4210,  
Glasgow, MT 59230, 406-228-9347.

#### Region 7

Miles City, Rural Route 1, Box 2004,  
Miles City, MT 59301, 406-232-4365.

#### Region 8

Helena, 1404 8th Avenue,  
Helena, MT 59620, 406-444-4720.





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